Man accused of stabbing his wife and abusing 2 kids. PAGE 2
NMC raises passing score to get into nursing program. PAGE 11

Hafa Adai!

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Nude protester is arrested

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety arrested yesterday a male protester who was parading naked along Middle Road in Puerto Rico while carrying his protest placard.

RELATED NEWS

- Excessive force lawsuit vs CPA officer is dismissed. **PAGE 7**

Zhang Shanguo, a Chinese national known for protesting against the Chinese Communist Party along the main

See NUDE on Page 4

'Contempt' is back on committees' agenda

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two House of Representatives committees that have subpoenaed for information on the Torres' administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity and Stability Together, or BOOST Program, have once again included "contempt" on the agenda of their new joint meeting.

Both the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations will be meeting in the House chamber on Dec. 16 at 10am and Dec. 19 at 10am.

See CONTEMPT on Page 4

MERRY CHRISTMAS, PACIFIC!

Staff Sgt. Chase Porter and Airman 1st Class Caleb Williams, 36th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron mission loadmasters, push bundles filled with supplies, equipment and gifts out of a C-130J Super Hercules during Operation Christmas Drop last Dec. 4, 2022. The aircraft, call sign Santa 12, delivered seven bundles to the islands of Lukunor and Onaep in Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia. OCD is the longest-running Department of Defense humanitarian and disaster relief mission that includes dropping donated supplies, equipment and gifts to islands in the Pacific.

CAPT. KATIE MUELLER

China rolls back strict anti-COVID-19 measures

BEIJING (AP)—In a sharp reversal, China has announced a series of measures rolling back some of its most draconian anti-COVID-19 restrictions, including limiting harsh lockdowns and ordering schools without known infec-

See CHINA on Page 4

CEC will pick up last batch of absentee votes tomorrow

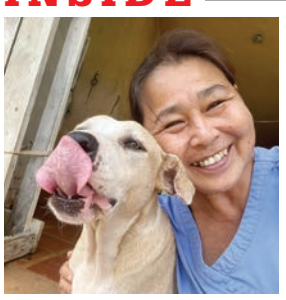
By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission will get the second and final batch of absentee votes for the runoff election—if there is any—at the U.S. Postal Service in Chalan Kanoa, at 3:30pm tomorrow, Friday, according to CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol yesterday.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, Igitol said they

See CEC on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS
Yumiko Brudidge's pet grooming business is proof that you can turn your passion into a livelihood.
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ENVIRONMENT
Severe beach erosion helps uncover what appears to be a wooden ship dating from the 1800s.
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LIFE & STYLE
Brendan Fraser is in many ways a familiar face, yet is also not quite as you might remember him.
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Local

Man accused of stabbing his wife and abusing 2 kids

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $25,000 cash bail on a man accused of stabbing his wife multiple times, punching her daughter, and flipping over her son out of anger.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed Monday a $25,000 cash bail on Bill M. Manglona, who is accused of repeatedly stabbing his wife with a screwdriver, punching her 1-year-old daughter, and flipping over her 7-year-old son in anger.

The police report kept referring to the children as the wife's daughter and son, and their relation to Manglona was not immediately clarified.

Manglona, a Rota resident, is facing charges of assault, assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, disturbing the peace, and child abuse.

Manglona, 29, was arrested by the Rota Department of Public Safety last Dec. 2, but was only brought to the CNMI Superior Court last Monday for a bail hearing and his initial appearance before a judge.

Following the hearing, Camacho ordered that Manglona be remanded back to Department of Corrections custody for failure to post bail.

The judge ordered Manglona to return to court on Dec. 14, for a preliminary hearing while his arraignment was set for Dec. 19, at 9am.

The court appointed assistant public defender Emily Thomsen to represent Manglona in this matter while assistant attorney general Frances Demapan represents the government.

According to court documents, Manglona's wife filed an in-person complaint against her husband at the DPS central on Rota accusing him of domestic violence last Dec. 2.

The victim told police that her husband, Manglona, stabbed her multiple times with a screwdriver and abused their two children on two separate occasion and she fears for her life.

She claims that Manglona has been threatening to kill her since Nov. 26, and that he has been beating her since 2014.

According to the victim, on Dec. 1, Manglona flipped her 7-year-old son by the feet, which caused her son to hit his head on some rocks lying on the ground. He also allegedly punched her 1-year-old daughter on her left rib in a fit of rage.

That same day, the victim said, Manglona hit her all over her body, causing bruises to form.

Prior to the Dec. 1 incident, the victim said on Nov. 30, Manglona stabbed her multiple times with a black screwdriver, including her head, and only stopped when he saw her head start to bleed.

Philippine Consulate General in Guam caps CNMI outreach

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam concluded a nearly weeklong consular outreach mission to the CNMI last Tuesday with a swearing in ceremony for 23 naturalized U.S. citizens who wished to be dual citizens of the Philippines.

Philippine Consul General Patrick John U. Hilado concluded his weeklong consular outreach to the CNMI by administering the oath of allegiance to 23 naturalized U.S. citizens seeking to regain their Filipino citizenship.

The oath-taking ceremony was held at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe last Monday, a day before his departure back to Guam.

According to Hilado, Filipinos who renounce their Filipino citizenships to become U.S. citizens lose privileges in their home country like the privilege to own land or to live in the Philippines tax-free. Fortunately, these individuals are able to have the best of both worlds with dual citizenship.

"Philippine law allows former Filipino citizens to reacquire their Filipino citizenship, which makes them dual citizens. The Philippine Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003 has benefited more than 100,000 Filipinos abroad primarily from the U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand [who] want to be dual citizens," said Hilado.

Hilado noted that many of these individuals are those who have spent a good chunk of their younger years working abroad and are preparing to settle down in their home country.

"Many Filipinos who have spent a number of years abroad usually want to retire back home, and or invest in property back home. You will

See PHILIPPINE on Page 4

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VOX POPULI

Should the CNMI continue celebrating Constitution Day?

Today, Dec. 8, is CNMI Constitution Day, when the Commonwealth commemorates the adoption of its constitution in 1978. However, more and more residents are becoming unaware of the significance of this holiday, so we asked random people to get their opinion whether the CNMI should continue celebrating Constitution Day:

"The Constitution in a lot of ways benefits people and better shape the government. …So, yes, I think we should continue the commemoration of Constitution Day."

—Issac Perez
Koblerville

"We should celebrate the holiday because it's fun to celebrate a holiday—no school, no work, just time with family."

—Karmen Ohri
Chalan Piao

"I think we still should celebrate Constitution Day because I don't see anything wrong with the way we run our government. Our Constitution is similar to the U.S. Constitution because we followed their lead. And also because of all the privileges we have being born on Saipan. And we are also U.S. citizens, we have the privilege of becoming U.S. citizens when we are born here on Saipan, and Tinian and Rota."

—Alayssa Mondido

Koblerville

Growing up I wasn't fully

See SHOULD on Next Page

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Rip currents may continue until Sunday afternoon

The public is being warned that there is a high risk of dangerous rip currents through Sunday afternoon in east facing reefs of the Marianas. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a surge in longer-period trade-wind swell this weekend could prolong the high risk of rip currents beyond Friday afternoon and into the weekend. It was earlier predicted that the rip current could last only until Friday.

The public is being advised to swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

Tumon Bay Music Festival returns

Calling all musicians from Guam, the Marianas, and beyond! The largest music event in the region is back! The 2023 Tumon Bay Music Festival will be held on March 2-11, 2023, in various locations throughout Guam.

This event is open to musicians and music groups of all ages and experience levels. Pre-register online at tbmfguam.org. ***(PR)***

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STK	MODEL	WAS	NOW!
18R279	2018 KIA FORTE S	$17,638	$14,995
21H047A	2018 HYUNDAI KONA SPORT	$22,258	$15,995
21D129A	2018 HYUNDAI KONA SPORT	$20,789	$15,995
17P341	2017 MAZDA 6 SPORT	$18,355	$16,995
16P375	2016 MAZDA CX5 TOURING	$23,499	$16,995
21H079A	2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE	$21,064	$16,995
18P405	2018 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE	$19,004	$16,995
17P370	2017 TOYTOTA COROLLA LE	$20,726	$16,995
18HS947	2018 HONDA CIVIC EX-T	$23,458	$16,995
16P378	2016 TOYOTA COROLLA SE	$20,383	$17,995
18P393	2018 NISSAN ROGUE SV	$22,661	$17,995
20R292	2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT	$24,247	$18,995
22M075A	2015 HYUNDAI GENESIS G80 LIMITED	$24,374	$18,995
21H077A	2013 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER SR5	$23,355	$18,995
18P398	2018 MAZDA CX5 TOURING	$23,263	$19,995
22H186A	2020 HYUNDAI VELOSTER ULT COUPE	$29,120	$19,995
8H054E	2019 HYUNDAI KONA SPORT	$21,651	$19,995

STK	MODEL	WAS	NOW!
17HS1036	2017 FORD MUSTANG CONV	$23,525	$19,995
17HS850	2017 FORD TRANSIT XLT LOW ROOF	$42,381	$19,995
18P397	2018 MAZDA CX5 SPORT	$25,765	$20,995
21D106A	2017 TOYOTA RAV4 SPORT	$23,760	$21,995
18P416	2018 TOYOTA RAV4 LE	$31,648	$22,995
22M032A	2018 HONDA CIVIC EX	$25,840	$22,995
20P476	2020 MAZDA 3 HB PREMIUM	$33,050	$24,995
22M021A	2019 MAZDA 6	$30,118	$24,995
18P345A	2018 HYUNDAI TUCSON LIMITED	$30,451	$24,995
22M050A	2018 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE	$27,271	$24,995
16P387	2016 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LE	$27,808	$24,995
13P359	2013 TOYOTA FJ CRUISER	$33,890	$27,995
18P344	2018 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5	$34,836	$31,995
18P411	2018 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER	$41,254	$36,995
19P367	2019 HONDA RIDGELINE RTL-E	$47,459	$38,995

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PHILIPPINE

From Page 2

notice that those that apply for dual citizenship have spent more than 30 years abroad," Hilado said.

One of the oath-takers, Annamae Adaza, stated that reacquiring her citizenship would enable her to visit the Philippines for long periods of time without having to pay monthly taxes.

"For me, it's not more on the property privileges, but for tax purposes. I want to be able to go home without thinking of paying tax every month," she said.

As for the 22 other oath-takers, Hilado said he could not provide names for privacy reasons.

Aside from the swearing-in ceremony, Hilado said he and his team spent two days each on Saipan and Tinian to serve approximately 400 individuals who needed passport, notarial and other services.

Hilado also met with the leaders and members of Filipino community organizations at a gathering hosted by outgoing United Filipino Organization president Marcelo Masilungan during his visit.

According to Hilado, he became the new Philippine consul general to Guam in May 2021. The recently concluded visit was his first official visit to the CNMI as part of the five-day consular services on Saipan and Tinian.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Philippine Consul General Patrick Hilado, center, concluded his nearly weeklong consular outreach mission to the CNMI last Tuesday with a swearing-in ceremony for 23 naturalized U.S. citizens who wished to regain their Filipino citizenship.

NUDE

From Page 1

streets of Saipan, was arrested by Department of Public Safety officers yesterday for indecent exposure.

Zhang has been conducting one-man protests in different areas of Saipan for many years now, but he is usually dressed. It was not immediately learned why he decided to go *au naturel* yesterday. Photos that went viral on social media showed Zhang marching stark naked in front of the MHII building in Puerto Rico with his huge signboard.

According to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan, Zhang was arrested following complaints made by passersby at around 7:35am.

"The call came in at 7:35am and he was arrested at 7:44am. He was arrested for indecent exposure by the MH2 building intersection in Puerto Rico. He has been transferred [to the Department of Corrections] and will be detained there," said Pangelinan.

Zhang is no stranger to DPS though. His rap sheet shows multiple arrests for various crimes and misdemeanors in the name of protesting against the CCP.

Recently, the U.S. District Court for the NMI dismissed the claims made by Zhang against public law enforcers whom he had accused of false arrest, excessive force, and deliberate indifference in violation of his Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth amendment rights.

On Jan. 27, 2020, he was arrested by a police officer whom he accused of not giving him a written document why he was being arrested. For this arrest, he was detained for 94 days.

Then in June 2021, he was arrested several times at the Saipan airport by police officers stationed there.

However, Zhang claims for each of these arrests, he did not commit any offense but was still held in prison for a short period of time and released without being charged.

Notably, on June 15, 2021, Zhang threw a rock at a window at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to protest his mistreatment and then presented himself to be arrested.

Zhang said police used force and violently pulled him to the ground even though Zhang was not resisting, resulting in him sustaining physical injuries.

He said officers confiscated his signboards and never returned them to him.

While in prison, Zhang alleged that he was mistreated, assaulted twice, and did not receive the medical treatment that he needed, including for a fever above 40 degrees Celsius.

CONTEMPT

From Page 1

As this developed, William "Wil" Castro, who is the chief of Staff of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, thanked the committees for giving him more time to provide supplemental information to his response that he forwarded last Friday, Dec. 2.

Castro said he received a copy of the Bank of Saipan's response via email yesterday, Wednesday, at approximately 8:42am and requested for an extension to 12pm yesterday and that the committees granted his request.

"Separate and apart from information the Bank of Saipan provided, in good faith and in the spirit of cooperation I attached copies of emails relative to the administration of the program as early as January of 2022," he said in a statement he issued yesterday.

Castro said he is more than willing to answer any questions about the program.

It was not immediately clear what prompted Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) to restore the subject of "contempt" on their Tuesday meeting agenda.

Castro

Aside from contempt, also in the meeting's agenda is a review of legal authority to conduct a legislative research or investigation, rules and parameters for conducting a legislative investigation, review of supporting records, and a statute that deals with letters and subpoenas.

Manglona and Babauta stated in their notice to convene that written comments on agenda items may be submitted to Babauta on or before the meeting dates. Oral testimony may be presented during the meeting.

As to why "contempt" is once again on the table, Babauta said yesterday that it is a matter of complying with the law, specifically the Open Government Act. She did not elaborate.

The committees originally set the joint meeting for last Friday, Dec. 2, and "contempt" was on the agenda.

Babauta earlier explained that they cancelled the Dec. 2 meeting as there is no need to hold it because Castro asked for more time to respond to their subpoena and that they granted it.

Babauta said that after granting the extension, there was no need to hold Castro in contempt.

Castro's was given another extension until yesterday, Wednesday, at 10am to submit documents.

The committees issued subpoenas to compel some entities and persons, including Castro, to produce documents and testify related to the BOOST Program.

The committees want to hold a joint meeting in their bid to find out, among other things, who have been awarded under the BOOST Program and those who have been denied, or are still awaiting disposition.

The BOOST Program is a project of the Office of the Governor and the Department of Commerce that aims to provide financial assistance to CNMI businesses and nonprofit organizations. Bank of Saipan, which was also served with a subpoena, is the administrator of the program.

CEC

From Page 1

will pick up the first batch of absentee votes at the U.S. Postal Service Friday at 11am.

The CEC staff, accompanied by Department of Public Safety police officers and Office of the Public Auditor representatives, will bring the absentee votes to the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe for tabulation.

"I hope we get most of it, if not all, back," Igitol said.

The CEC sent out 2,139 absentee ballots and only 315 have been returned as of runoff election day of Nov. 25.

Igitol earlier stated that the remaining absentee votes must be postmarked on or before Nov. 25, Saipan time, to be counted manually tomorrow.

A source at CEC, however, stated that the board will consult the Office of the Attorney General whether the votes must be postmarked on or before Nov. 25, Saipan time, or as long as it's on or before Nov. 25 in the voters' places.

It's mathematically improbable, however, for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his running mate, Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan), of the Republican Party, to catch up, considering that Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and his running mate, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, of the unified independent team, now enjoy a commanding 1,060-vote lead, based on the CEC's unofficial tabulation results.

In the Nov. 8 general elections, CEC's official tabulation results show that there were 1,531 total absentee votes counted. Torres-Sablan received 570, while Palacios-Apatang got 557, and Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) and her running mate, Rep. Leila F. Staffler (D-Saipan), of the Democratic Party, obtained 404.

CHINA

From Page 1

tions to resume regular classes.

The National Health Commission in a 10-point announcement on Wednesday stipulated that COVID-19 tests and a clean bill of health displayed on a smartphone app would no longer be required, apart from vulnerable areas such as nurseries, elderly care facilities and schools. It also limited the scale of lockdown to individual apartment floors and buildings, rather than entire districts and neighborhoods.

People who test positive for the virus will be able to isolate at home rather than in overcrowded and unsanitary field hospitals, and schools where there have been no outbreaks must return to in-class teaching.

The announcement follows recent street protests in several cities over the strict "zero-COVID" policy now entering its fourth year, which has been blamed for upending ordinary life, travel and employment while dealing a harsh blow to the national economy.

China has sought to maintain the hardline policy while keeping the world's second-largest economy humming, but public frustration with the restrictions appears to have finally swayed the opinion of officials who had championed "zero-COVID" as superior to the approach of foreign nations that have opened up in hopes of learning to live with the virus.

"Relevant departments in all localities must further improve their political positions ... and resolutely correct the 'one size fits all' simplified approach," the commission said in its statement posted on its website.

Officials, often those at the local level under intense pressure to prevent outbreaks, must "oppose and overcome formalism and bureaucracy, and take strict and detailed measures to protect people's life safety and health to the greatest extent, and minimize the impact of the epidemic on economic and social development," the statement said.

Newly reported cases of COVID-19 in China have fallen from a daily record of more than 40,000 in recent days to just 20,764 on Wednesday, the vast majority of them asymptomatic.

SHOULD

From Page 3

aware of the significance of the CNMI Constitution Day. I looked at it as just another ordinary holiday with no school, so of course we celebrated it. Until I later learned a bit of the importance of it. In my personal opinion I believe that we should continue to observe Constitution Day. It what makes the CNMI a Commonwealth, reminding us that we are U.S. citizens and have our own rights that are protected, giving us so many opportunities that others don't have.

—Joannie Laniyo Oleai

I believe celebrating events like Constitution Day is important. To move forward and develop as a nation, it's important to understand where we come from. It's important to reflect on the principles and ideas that founded our islands and our nation to better improve our way of life.

—Jeremiah Fernandez San Antonio

GMS

Green Meadow School middle school students join the most recent Junior International Thespian Society Competition and the National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition.

GMS back in action at JITS and NJSDA competitions

Green Meadow School middle school students joined the fray once again at the most recent Junior International Thespian Society Competition on Nov. 19 at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School and the National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition on Dec. 3 at the Northern Marianas International School.

Despite the absence of live competitions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, GMS Falcons put up a valiant effort. Green Meadow School would like to applaud all the efforts of the student competitors and thank the hardworking educators for the return of the live competitions.

NJSDA regulars Paula Angela Bernardo and Louise Elesha Manansala from the 8th grade secured fifth place in the DUO category. Previously NMI JITS representatives Nelisa Nicole Acaba and Isabella Mallari achieved third place in their Duet Acting Superior Rating performance. Sixth-grade newcomer Paul Andrei Bernardo secured fourth place for both his performances in Storytelling and Poetry.

For more information about Green Meadow School, call 235-2185, or email info@greenmeadowschool.net. Visit their main campus in Chalan Kiya past the Saipan Health Clinic. ***(PR)***

OPA: Candidates, political parties must submit campaign statement of account

The Office of the Public Auditor is reminding all election candidates and political parties that participated in this year's general elections that they are required by law to file a detailed "campaign statement of account." Filing of a "campaign statement of account" is mandatory. Failure to do so means a penalty of $100 per day for each date the statement is late.

This itemized financial statement, prepared with the advice and co-signature of the candidate's treasurer, must show the specific source(s), name(s) of contributor(s), and amount(s) of contributions and expenses.

OPA is mandated by law to receive the filing of these statements.

The law also requires that the statement be verified under oath by the candidate/political party and the candidate's/political party's treasurer.

OPA said its office will provide free notary service to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. (Proper identification bearing both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided).

Pursuant to the law, failure to file a complete, signed, dated and verified statement 50 days after the election shall subject you to a fine of up to $100 per day for each date the statement is late.

The law that requires the campaign statement of account is 1 CMC § 6424.

The "campaign statement of account" form, suggested reports, and supporting schedules are available on the Commonwealth Election Commission's website at www.votecnmi.gov.mp or on OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY: Void where prohibited. Legal residents of the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands who are 18 or older. Begins December 1, 2022 at 12:00 A.M. ChST and ends on December 25, 2022 at 11:59 P.M. ChSt. To enter, and for Official Rules, odds, and prize details, visit https://bankofguam.com/25-days-of-giveaways-official-rules. Sponsor: Bank of Guam.

PAMC resolution protests plan to dump nuke waste into Pacific

The Pacific Alliance of Municipal Councils has adopted a resolution that protest against and condemns the Japanese government's plan to release approximately 1.1 million tons of treated nuclear wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean.

PAMC Resolution 005-2022 was adopted at the alliance's 18th meeting on Saipan at the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council Office last Monday, Dec. 5.

According to the resolution, it is the Japanese government's plan to release into the Pacific Ocean about 43,965 gallons of treated nuclear wastewater per month or 527,578 gallons per year for 30 years. This plan is likely to begin by the summer of next year, 2023.

The PAMC resolution passed is similar to the one introduced by PAMC and adopted by the Association of Mayors of the Mariana Islands on Nov. 18, 2022.

Both resolutions will be forwarded to the offices of the U.S. delegates of Guam and the CNMI, all members of the Guam and CNMI leadership, the Japanese Embassy in the United States, the Japanese Consuls' Office in Guam and CNMI and the U.N. Human Rights Council.

Standing from left, Jonovan Lizama, Thomasa P. Mendiola, and Jim Atalig. Seated from left, Ana Demapan-Castro, Antonia Tudela, and Juanita M. Mendiola. Not in photo are Joseph E. Santos, William Taitano, and Danny Aquino.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The incoming members of the municipal councils were invited to join the meeting for orientation, but due to technical difficulties, the Rota and Tinian municipal council-elects were unable to join the meeting and two of the council-elects from Saipan had prior commitments.

"Hopefully, they will be able to join us in our 19th meeting scheduled for Dec. 15, because we still have pending matters to address before the new members of the municipal councils are sworn into office in January next year," said PAMC president Jim Atalig.

The discussion on the outreach schedules on the popular Initiative to empower the municipalities was tabled and added to the Dec. 15 meeting agenda where all council members elect will, again, be invited.

"We hope that the new members will agree to continue in pursuing this issue and make it a reality," said PAMC member Ana Demapan-Castro. "We wanted to impress upon the new members the importance of having authority over our immediate and unique jurisdictions and implore them to continue fighting for it."

Aside from Atalig and Demapan-Castro, other members of PAMC are secretary/treasurer Jonovan Lizama and members William Taitano of the Rota Municipal Council; member Antonia Tudela and Daniel Aquino of the Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council; PAMC vice president Juanita M. Mendiola, and members Joseph E. Santos and Thomas P. Mendiola of the Tinian & Aguiguan Municipal Council. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

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CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
EMAIL: mwhite@saipan.com

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PUSHADEVI M. HEMLANI, Plaintiff,
-v-
JAMES D. CABRERA, FEIAN CHEN, and WENJUE YIN, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0198-CV

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

/s/
Clerk of Court
Dated, this 31st day of August, 2022.

Flame Angel is latest ProaPerks partner

Online marketplace Flame Angel is the latest to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that offer discounts to NMC alumni, students, and employees.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive 5% off their online purchase by using the promo code "proaperks5" at checkout when buying from Flame Angel.

Currently, Flame Angel sells products from local businesses such as Kingfisher's Noni and Jess Multi-Farms. All of the available products can be found on their website at www.flame-angel.com.

Flame Angel joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., AQUASMITH, Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Beach Garden Hotel & Apartment, Bistro Marianas, Capital Hotel, Chagi Norf Kitchen, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Decor, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Clear Water Place, Clear Water Residence, Clear Water Villa, Coral Garden Hotel, Cosmos Lounge, D' Chef's Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Flame Angel, Fork and Spoon, Furusato Restaurant, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold's Gym, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginen Saipan, Hafa Adai Rent A Car, Hardt Eye Clinic, Inc., Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc., Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Hotel Americano, Ina's Kitchen, International House Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Pokiyaki, Residence Lodge, Saipan Computer Services, Salt & Barber Salon, Shirley's Cafe, Spicy Thai Noodle, Salty's, Stay Cafe, Summit Auto Repair Shop, Surf Club, Residence Lodge, Tempura's Best Restaurant, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Time Creation Corp., Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

NMC

This guava-scented virgin coconut body oil by Kokone is available on Flame Angel's online marketplace.

NMC

Online marketplace Flame Angel sells chili-infused coconut olive oil by Jess Multi-Farms.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of NMC alumni, students, and employees can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Excessive force lawsuit vs a CPA officer is dismissed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has thrown out the excessive force lawsuit filed against a Commonwealth Ports Authority enforcement officer.

Pursuant to the request of plaintiff Zhang Shanguo, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with prejudice the excessive force complaint he had filed against CPA enforcement officer Jason Cruz.

Manglona

In her order last Friday, Manglona noted that when the case was heard last Dec. 1, Zhang informed the court that he wants to dismiss his claim against Cruz.

After explaining to Zhang that dismissal with prejudice would prevent him from filing a lawsuit against Cruz on the same grounds, the judge granted the plaintiff's request and dismissed the claim against Cruz with prejudice.

However, she allowed Zhang to amend his complaint to plead additional facts regarding the previously dismissed claims against other individuals. But Zhang stated that he did not have additional facts or evidence to provide.

Meanwhile, in a statement from Cruz's lawyer, Robert T. Torres, he said that CPA respects Zhang's right to freedom of expression and believes that he recognized that his actions were criminal and unacceptable in any free society.

"We stand by the video evidence and facts that on June 15, 2021, when directed to use a face mask, Zhang proceeded to violently strike the Ports Police Office window with a rock. Officer Cruz, then on duty, used reasonable force to subdue and then arrest Zhang. CPA officers and personnel are trained not only as to the proper use of force but to be vigilant in ensuring the safety of the airport and seaport patrons. We appreciate the court's decision in dismissing the case with prejudice," he said.

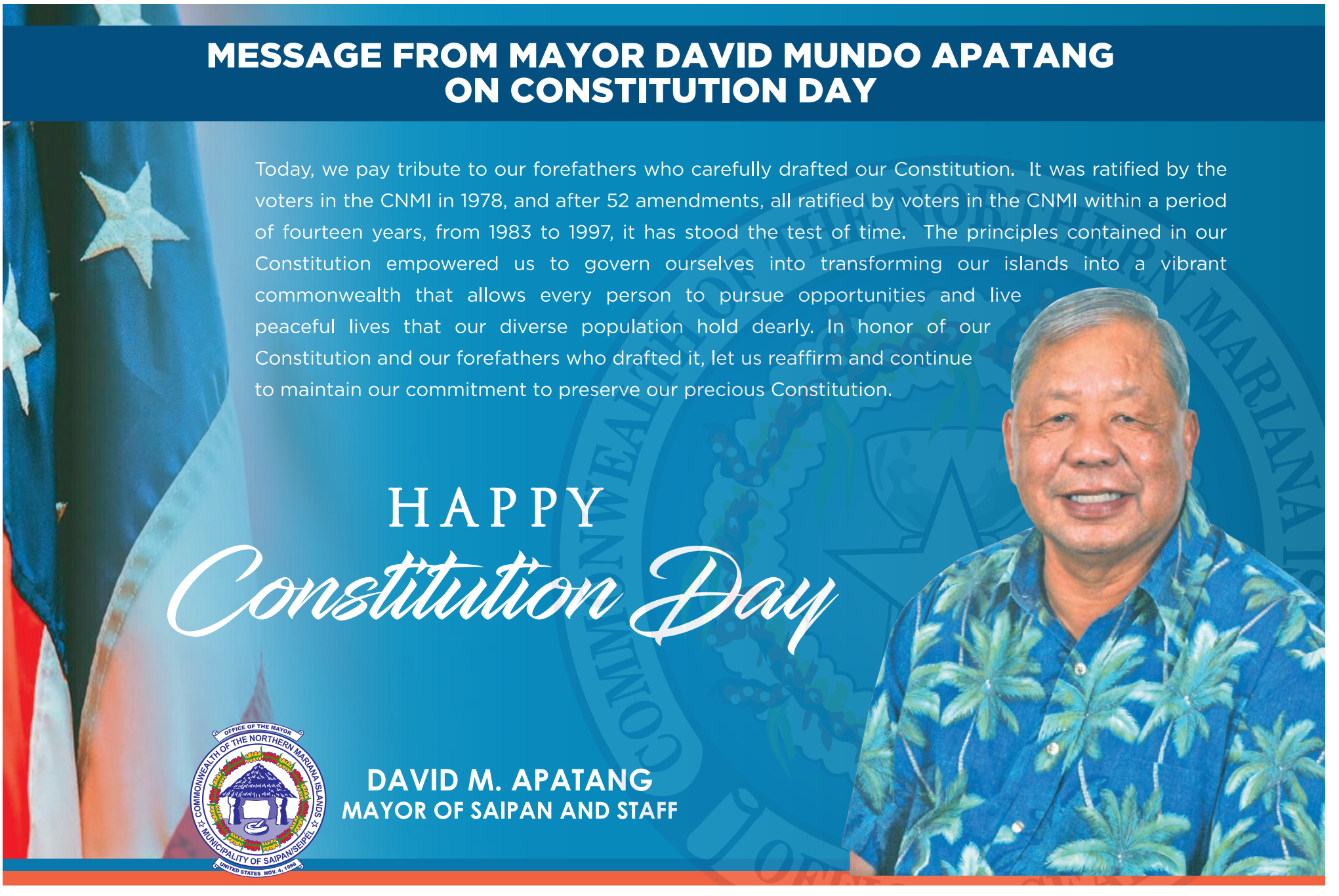
According to court documents, Zhang alleged that in June 2021, he was arrested in several instances at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport by police officers stationed there.

Specifically, on June 4, 2021, he said he was arrested by officers Timothy Cruz and Frank Indalecio. Then on June 10, 2021, he was arrested by Stevie Cabrera and Timothy Cruz. On June 14, 2021, he was arrested by Stevie A. Cabrera. According to Zhang, for each of these arrests, he did not commit any offense, but the officers arrested him to harass him and deprive him of his rights. After each arrest, he was placed in prison for a short period of time and released without being charged.

On June 15, 2021, Zhang threw a rock at a window at the Saipan airport to protest his mistreatment and then presented himself to be arrested.

Zhang said Cruz used force and violently pulled him to the ground even though Zhang was not resisting, resulting in physical injuries to Zhang.

While in prison, Zhang alleged that he was mistreated, assaulted twice, and did not receive the medical treatment that he needed, including for a fever above 40 degrees Celsius.


MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DAVID MUNDO APATANG
ON CONSTITUTION DAY
Today, we pay tribute to our forefathers who carefully drafted our Constitution. It was ratified by the voters in the CNMI in 1978, and after 52 amendments, all ratified by voters in the CNMI within a period of fourteen years, from 1983 to 1997, it has stood the test of time. The principles contained in our Constitution empowered us to govern ourselves into transforming our islands into a vibrant commonwealth that allows every person to pursue opportunities and live peaceful lives that our diverse population hold dearly. In honor of our Constitution and our forefathers who drafted it, let us reaffirm and continue to maintain our commitment to preserve our precious Constitution.
HAPPY
Constitution Day
DAVID M. APATANG
MAYOR OF SAIPAN AND STAFF

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Republicans' silence on Trump's anti-Constitution screed violates their oaths

Upon taking office, every member of Congress must swear an oath to "support and defend" the United States Constitution. America is currently watching most congressional Republicans—including Missouri Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley and the state's entire GOP House delegation—violate that oath in real time. What else can be said of supposed political leaders who sit silently while their party's standard-bearer and presidential front-runner publicly calls for the "termination" of the Constitution for the sake of his own power?

Ex-President Donald Trump's contempt for the nation's founding document has long been evident in his words and deeds, but he crossed a dangerous new line (even for him) on Saturday. In a social media screed pressing his continuing lie that he was cheated out of reelection in 2020, he demanded that the Constitution be set aside so he could be restored to the presidency.

"A Massive Fraud of this type and magnitude allows for the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution," he posted Saturday on his Truth Social network. He later followed up with: "UNPRECEDENTED FRAUD REQUIRES UNPRECEDENTED CURE!"

There was no significant election fraud, unprecedented or otherwise, but that's beside the point. The Constitution is sacrosanct. Electoral disputes (both genuine issues and the bogus ones Trump keeps pushing) must be settled within the structure of the Constitution, not by its "termination." It would be shocking to have to explain that to the average eighth grader. Having to explain it to a former president—one who stands a realistic chance of being elected to that office again in two years—is terrifying.

Not every unhinged Trump comment needs or deserves a reaction, but this one does. And yet elected members of Trump's own party, whose condemnation would carry the most weight, have remained almost uniformly mute. The few who found themselves facing the question on the weekend talk shows generally mouthed some milquetoast rejection of Trump's statements while carefully avoiding any condemnation of Trump himself for saying it. At least one, Rep. Dave Joyce, R-Ohio, said he would still "support whoever the Republican nominee is" for president in 2024, even if it's Trump.

If a major presidential candidate calling for eliminating the Constitution isn't enough to merit a preemptive, party-wide rejection of his candidacy, what is?

Most notable in this silent gallery of cowards is House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, who needs to keep the Trumpers in his caucus happy to realize his dream of becoming the new House speaker in January. McCarthy has said that on the first day Republicans take over, they will read aloud "every single word" of the Constitution on the House floor. What a grotesque piece of theater that will be from a crowd that refuses to "support and defend" those words when it matters.

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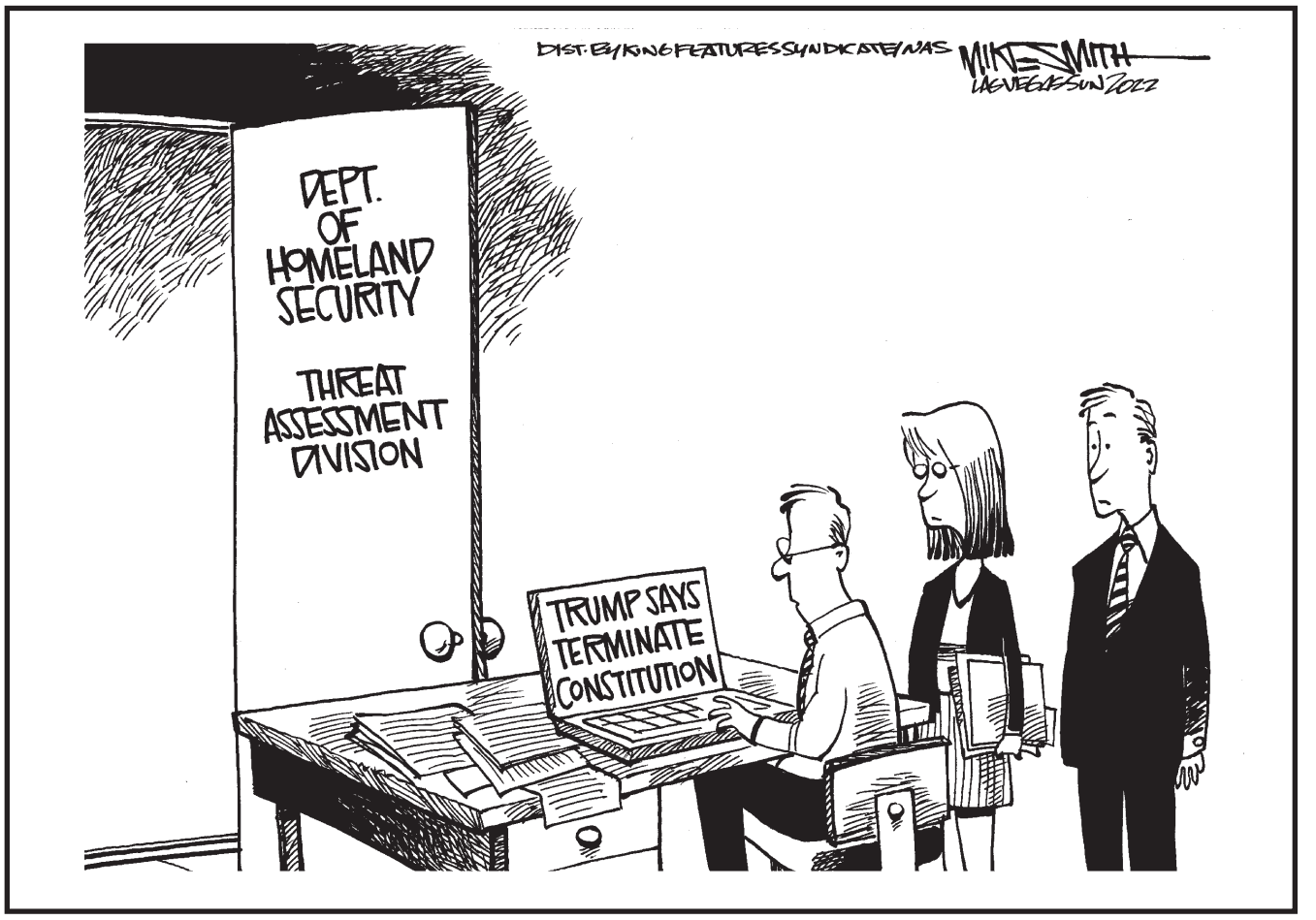


Does the First Amendment protect a right to discriminate?

By ERWIN CHEMERINSKY
Los Angeles Times

Erwin Chemerinsky is a contributing writer to Opinion and dean of the UC Berkeley School of Law. His latest book is Worse Than Nothing: The Dangerous Fallacy of Originalism.

On Monday, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a case that threatens to open the door widely to businesses being allowed to violate anti-discrimination laws. If the court rules that the First Amendment protects the right of business owners to discriminate—based on claims of freedom of speech or free exercise of religion—civil rights laws banning discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion or sexual orientation will be severely weakened everywhere in this country.

The case before the court, 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis, involves Lorie Smith, a graphic artist and a web designer. She wants to design websites for weddings, but she refuses to do so for same-sex weddings because of her religious beliefs.

Colorado law prohibits businesses that sell or offer services to the public from discriminating based on "disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, or ancestry." The law also prohibits businesses from displaying a "notice" that "indicates that the full and equal enjoyment of the goods (or) services ... will be refused" based on a protected characteristic.

Smith filed a lawsuit in federal district court to have the law declared unconstitutional as applied to her and for an injunction to keep it from being enforced against her.

The district court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit rejected her claims and upheld Colorado's anti-discrimination law. The appeals court stressed that the government has a compelling interest in preventing discrimination based on sexual orientation, in protecting the dignity interests of marginalized groups and in their ability to access the commercial marketplace.

The Supreme Court granted review, but interestingly only on the free speech issue and not on the question concerning free exercise of religion. The question before the court is: "Whether applying a public-accommodation law to compel an artist to speak or stay silent violates the free speech clause of the First Amendment."

Smith argues that the Colorado law compels her speech by requiring that she design websites for same-sex couples. But the state argues that it is regulating conduct—prohibiting discriminatory conduct—and only incidentally affecting Smith's speech.

Although the free exercise of religion issue is not directly presented, it also underlies this case. It is the same question, indeed even the same Colorado law, that the court reviewed in the 2018 case, Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission. In that case, a baker refused to design and bake cakes for same-sex weddings. In a majority opinion by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, the court decided that case in favor of the baker on narrow grounds, without deciding the broader question of whether someone's claims to free speech or free exercise of religion could be the basis for an exemption from anti-discrimination laws.

The willingness of the current court—with an even more conservative group of justices—to take this new case is concerning, and might suggest its interest in carving out exemptions from longstanding civil rights laws.

There will be grave consequences if the court rules in favor of Smith. There is no reason why such new First Amendment exemptions would be limited to sexual orientation. Those who want to discriminate against others based on race, sex or religion could simply raise a First Amendment defense. And this would seemingly extend to laws prohibiting discrimination in all contexts, such as in employment and housing.

For example, an employer with religious objections to employing gay, lesbian or transgender individuals could claim an exemption from state and federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. Similarly, an employer who, based on religious beliefs, thinks that men and women should not be in the same workplace, could refuse to hire women (or men). A landlord with religious objections to interracial marriage could refuse to rent apartments to interracial couples.

The court has been explicit that all that is required is that the individual have a sincerely held religious belief; it does not matter whether it is a belief held by an organized religion. In a 1981 case, the court ruled that a person of the Jehovah's Witness faith could claim a religious basis for quitting a job even when the requirements of that faith did not support his views.

The appeals court properly ruled that the Colorado law was constitutional because there was no other way to achieve the government's goal, even if the law impinged on First Amendment rights. This analysis complies with long settled constitutional doctrines. People should not be able to use their religion as a basis for inflicting injuries on others.

There is always a tension between liberty and equality. Any law that prohibits discrimination limits the freedom to discriminate.

See DOES on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Amata highlights Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2022

American Samoa Delegate Uifa'atali Amata is commemorating National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, which marks 81 years since the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

"President Franklin D. Roosevelt described that Sunday morning surprise attack as a 'date which will live in infamy.' The aerial assault seemed a one-sided victory for imperial Japan, but it missed the all-important aircraft carriers that proved to be a strategic key to winning the hard-fought Pacific theater of World War II.

"The air raid took the lives of 2,403 U.S. sailors, soldiers, Marines and civilians, and many more were injured. In a direct connection to American Samoa, Uifa'atali Peter T. Coleman, was a young U.S. Army officer stationed in Oahu. His Jeep was strafed as he rushed to duty. He went on to serve at Guadalcanal and elsewhere, completed his service with the rank of captain, and became the first Samoan in the Army Infantry Hall of Fame. I'm very proud of my father, and our people's strong tradition of military service, as we often have multiple generations of To'a o Samoa in our families. As we pause to remember the great World War II generation of patriots, we are grateful to each of our local service members from American Samoa who carry forward that legacy. In 2022, the U.S. can count Japan among our allies and trading partners, standing together for peace in the region."

U.S. Army Capt. Peter T. Coleman, later American Samoa's first Samoan governor and the longest serving.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A SENESCENT SONATINA

Old Older Oldest, Opus # 1, 2, 3, 4

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

A Prelude by Bob Dylan

"While them that defends what they cannot see
With a killer's pride, security It blows the mind
Most bitterly For them that think death's honesty
Won't fall upon them naturally
Life sometimes must get lonely"
—Verse 14,'It's Alright, Ma (I'm Only Bleeding)

Old Man Winter Beard

There goes youth when I was brave and bold
growing old without paying much attention
in the winter of my life I often feel the cold
dementia onset hinders some comprehension

Older Violins Sweeter Music

Funny things forgotten will never be told
short term memory loss filled with frustration
as I slowly learn what it means to grow older
gradually feeling each and every manifestation

Oldest Living Life Forgiving

File all these in a 'fuggedaboutit' folder
chalk it up to brain drain and benign neglect
with absolutely no chips on my shoulder
my ego says what the hell did you expect

Some Old Shelter/The Sum of Helter Skelter

My id seems insistent that I did my best
reality's road signs point to eternal rest

A Coda by Bob Dylan

"If dogs run free, why not me
Across the swamp of time?
My mind weaves a symphony
And tapestry of rhyme
Oh, winds which rush my tale to thee
So it may flow and be
To each his own, it's all unknown
If dogs run free."

Making the case for a stronger US commitment to human rights

By ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

On Dec. 10, 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in what is considered a groundbreaking moment for rights around the world. It recognized that everyone has the same basic inalienable rights, regardless of national origin, language, race, religion or sex.

It isn't legally binding but serves as a goal for governments worldwide and a baseline against which states' actions can be assessed. Like our own Declaration of Independence, it didn't reflect the world as it was at the time, but rather the world we hoped to make.

The seven decades since have seen much progress in human rights, with the end of colonialism, the U.S. civil rights movement, the dramatic expansion of both democracy and health care access across the globe and mass reduction of poverty in China, to name a few.

However, in the past 20 years, the global trend toward greater rights has reversed, with authoritarianism and illiberalism on the rise.

This matters to us here at home. The United States isn't immune to these trends, as the Jan. 6 attack on our election demonstrated. Our institutions prevented a constitutional crisis, but it is a reminder that we must continue to preserve and defend what we have.

Backsliding around the globe can affect our security and prosperity too. As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, if people don't enjoy basic dignity and rights protected by the rule of law, they will ultimately be compelled to rebel against oppression.

That instability can drive insurgencies that spill over into other countries, impede trade and travel and create ungoverned spaces prone to exploitation by terrorist and criminal organizations alike. The declaration isn't simply altruistic — it's a recognition that rights, security and prosperity are deeply connected, both within a country and across them all.

Our government has recognized and acted on this reality for decades, passing laws designed to ensure that our foreign policy doesn't undermine human rights elsewhere either. This architecture was launched on President Jimmy Carter's watch. He believed in the close connection between America's strength and our human rights record, and after the Nixon years and the Vietnam War era, he had much to clean up.

New laws in the 1970s institutionalized human rights in U.S. foreign policy for the first time, creating the State Department's human rights bureau, mandating annual human rights reports on every country receiving U.S. assistance, and making some foreign assistance contingent on the recipient's human rights record.

Since that period, Congress has passed additional laws to ensure U.S. assistance doesn't prop up bad actors and illiberal governments by mandating aid cuts for everything from the use of child soldiers to human trafficking to overthrowing a government by coup.

This approach wasn't interventionist. It didn't call on America to force democracy and human rights on countries around the world. It was premised instead on transparency — calling out human rights violations where they occurred — and ensuring that U.S. taxpayer dollars weren't complicit in their commission and the long-term instability that oppression fuels.

But even this has been too much to fulfill. Strongly worded statements have been the flagship of our human rights engagement, while these legal tools have typically been waived or ignored but for selective occasions for the most extreme acts. Rarely have human rights violations driven real change in U.S. foreign policy.

President Joe Biden has promised to change this and repeatedly declared that human rights would be the center of his administration's foreign policy. This promise, however, has led to little action.

The United States continues to provide military support and weapons sales to Saudi Arabia, even as Saudi Arabia's crippling blockade on Yemen continues, as does its widespread oppression at home.

Israel also remains immune from consequence. After Israeli forces shot and killed Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in May, the administration was determined to avoid criticizing Israel, though this month the Justice Department has finally opened an investigation.

The administration has been quick to applaud Ethiopia's recent peace deal but has been hesitant for two years of war to call out the Ethiopian government, a close security partner of the United States, for its use of starvation as a tactic of war and to recognize that Ethiopia continues to impede critical humanitarian access today.

These are a few examples of foreign policy challenges where a higher priority for human rights would demand a different approach, one where the United States sets a better example and does not allow our assistance and support to facilitate the destabilizing bad acts of others. U.S. action will not always be able to change the behavior of others, but human rights have a better chance of success if we don't put our thumb on the scale for oppression. This approach strengthens our credibility and effectiveness as an advocate for human rights, too.

The Biden administration aspires to be a champion of human rights and has the tools to follow through. The 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights next year is a good time to start delivering on that promise.

Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was previously a U.S. diplomat and is the author of The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age.

DOES

From Page 8

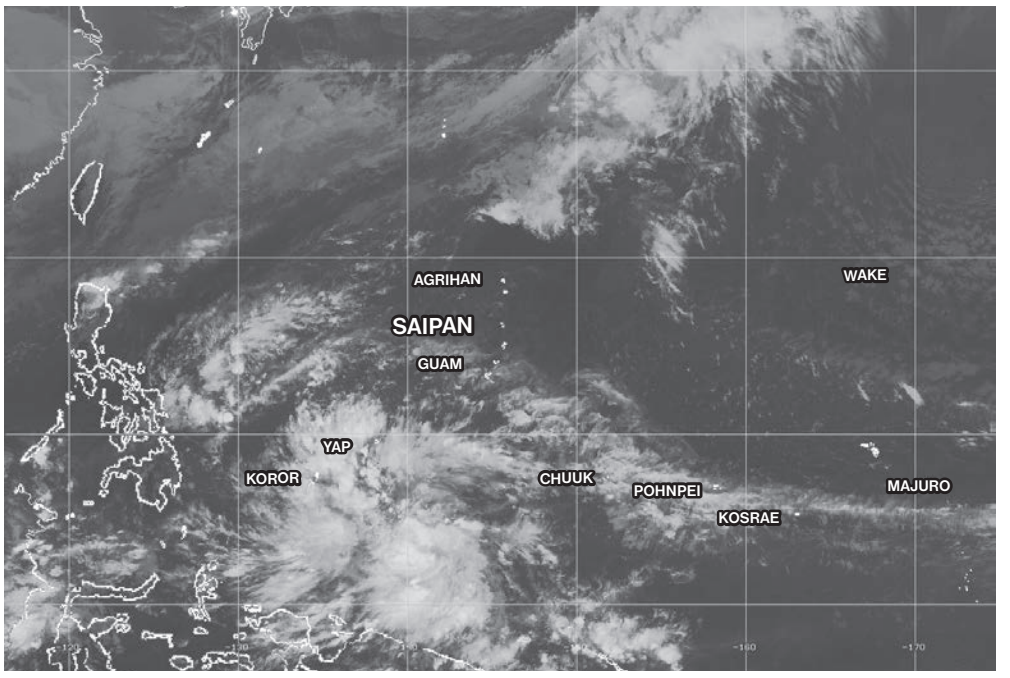
For decades, the Supreme Court has been clear that stopping discrimination is more important than protecting the freedom to discriminate. The court should reaffirm this principle in this case. But I worry that the conservative justices will use this case to undermine countless anti-discrimination laws.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
84° 78°	84° 78°	84° 78°	83° 78°	83° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:05 AM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate to fresh trades prevail in the Marianas. Satellite imagery and Doppler radar indicate spotty showers crossing the coastal waters. Ritidian buoy indicates seas are around 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	80° / 75°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain/Wind	62° / 60°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	46° / 22°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72° / 60°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy/Wind	83° / 73°
London	Sunny	38° / 27°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	63° / 44°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 78°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 51°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80° / 73°
New York	Showers	57° / 47°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	58° / 41°
Paris	Fog	39° / 28°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	56° / 39°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 56°
Salem	Cloudy	75° / 58°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	54° / 44°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	45° / 30°
Tokyo	Sunny	58° / 40°
Washington, DC	Light Rain	59° / 48°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Monday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:46 AM	5:36 PM
Friday	-	6:39 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	-	7:33 AM	7:03 PM
Sunday	-	8:28 AM	7:51 PM
Monday	-	9:22 AM	8:42 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:44 AM	Low Tide	-0.47
8:53 AM	High Tide	1.67
2:10 PM	Low Tide	1.09
6:45 PM	High Tide	1.65

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	7:45AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:40PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

OZ624	3:40PM	7:40PM	3, 6
TW308	4:30PM	8:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:40PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:40PM	3, 6
TW307	10:00AM	3:30PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

NMC increases passing score to get into nursing program

Interested individuals who are seeking admission into Northern Marianas College's nursing program will now need to score 70% or higher on all five test content areas on the nursing program's admission test (mathematics, reading, writing, science, and critical thinking).

In previous semesters, pre-nursing students only needed to score a 60% or higher on the admissions test to gain admission into the program. The increase was done to ensure that students who are admitted into the program are prepared for the rigor of the college's nursing program.

This change will apply to NMC pre-nursing students who have met the prerequisite requirements and now are ready to apply for admission or are on track to finishing their prerequisites in spring or summer 2023 to apply for admission into the Fall 2023 admission cohort. Students are encouraged to contact their nursing adviser for an update on their progress towards applying for admission into the nursing program for fall 2023.

The application for the fall 2023 admission into the nursing program will be available in April 2023 at www.marianas.edu/nursing.

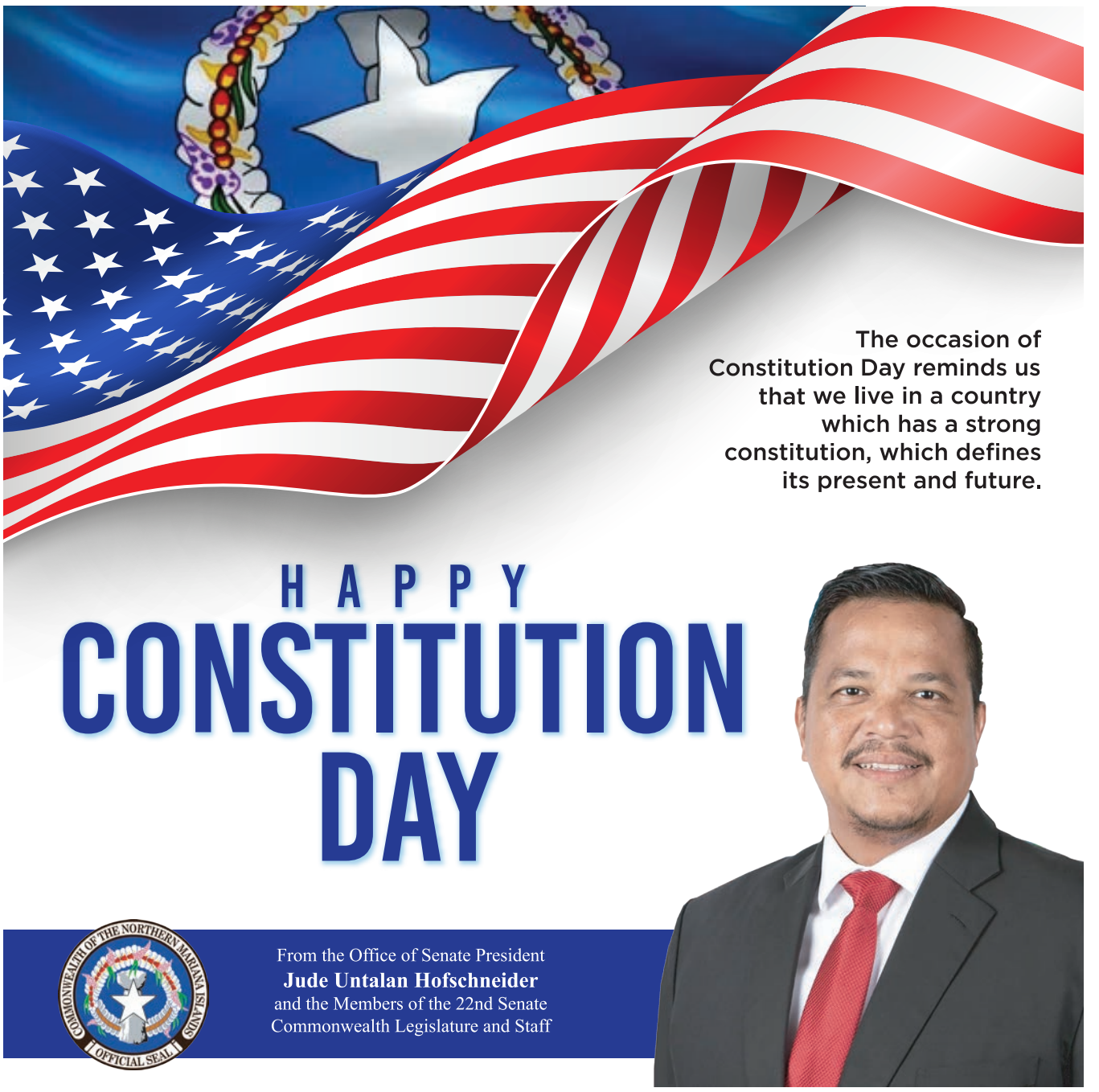
For more information, contact department chair Rosa T. Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or administrative assistant Andrew Mendiola at andrew.mendiola@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

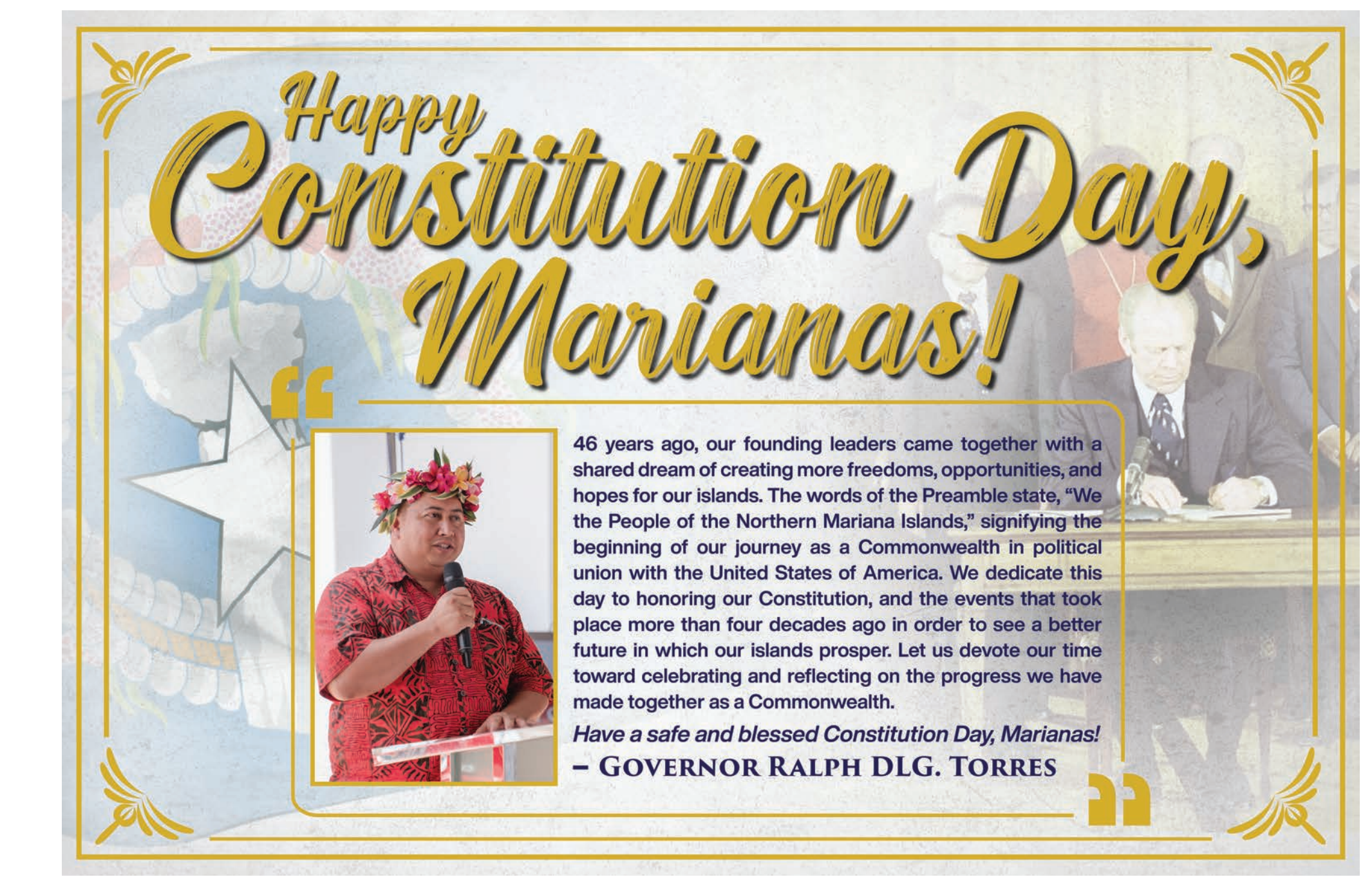
MAFEA induction of officers, Christmas party on Dec. 10

The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects is inviting all Filipino engineers and architects on Saipan and in Guam to attend the induction of officers and board of directors for the year 2023-2024 and Christmas Party on Dec. 10, 2022, from 6pm to 10pm, at the Grandrio Hotel Fiesta Hall in Garapan.

For more information, call Ariel Villanueva at (670) 788-1495 or Lito Marquez at (670) 9898905.

Door tickets is available at 6JMS Sports Bar & Grill in Garapan or call George at (670) 483-6860. ***(PR)***


The occasion of Constitution Day reminds us that we live in a country which has a strong constitution, which defines its present and future.
HAPPY
CONSTITUTION DAY
From the Office of Senate President
Jude Untalan Hofschneider
and the Members of the 22nd Senate
Commonwealth Legislature and Staff


Happy Constitution Day, Marianas!
46 years ago, our founding leaders came together with a shared dream of creating more freedoms, opportunities, and hopes for our islands. The words of the Preamble state, "We the People of the Northern Mariana Islands," signifying the beginning of our journey as a Commonwealth in political union with the United States of America. We dedicate this day to honoring our Constitution, and the events that took place more than four decades ago in order to see a better future in which our islands prosper. Let us devote our time toward celebrating and reflecting on the progress we have made together as a Commonwealth.
Have a safe and blessed Constitution Day, Marianas!
– Governor Ralph DLG. Torres

Business

Happy Tail Saipan keeping furbabies' behinds wagging

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy Tail Saipan owner Yumiko Brudidge with one of her 18 rescue dogs Sugar, who she saved from euthanasia at the Saipan Mayor Office animal shelter eight years ago.

Yumiko Brudidge's pet grooming business is proof that you can turn your passion into a livelihood.

Brudidge always loved dogs. In fact, she has 18 rescue dogs to prove it.

Happy Tails Saipan started off when Brudidge, who is associate vice president of Saipan Cares for Animals, started cutting and pruning pet fur at the non-profit animal clinic.

"I started grooming service at the non-profit when our groomer left Saipan. Because a lot of dogs needed the service. Working with many veterinarians on a non-profit basis, I gained a lot of knowledge and was able to overcome individual personalities through animal rescue," she said.

Brudidge then made a decision to make her grooming service into a full-scale business when SCfA moved out of its As Gonno facility and relocated to Gualo Rai.

"SCfA can't do grooming at the new place. All the grooming customers who I did before then contacted me. SCfA clinic always introduces my business to pet owners who really need to groom their pets. Customers then introduced me to their friends who are also pet owners, too."

Since officially opening in February 2022, Happy Tails Saipan's dropoff pet grooming business has been doing extremely well with Brudidge grooming as many as 2-3 pets a day.

The grooming service starts at a flat rate of $50 and includes haircut, bath, dryer, nail trim, and ear cleaning. If the grooming extends to more than two hours because your pet has tangled hair, you will have to pay extra.

Brudidge says pet owners with dog breeds with long hair need to be groomed once every 2-3 months. She also shared the importance of regularly cutting pets nails.

"If the hair is tangled, it will cause pain and skin damage to the pet if it is not removed quickly. By cleaning the fur on the surface of the paw, they will not slip when the dog walks. If the nail is longer than the paw, it will damage the joints."

She also said ear hair can be prevented by regularly plucking them.

"It would be great if the pet owner could do all these things by himself. However, grooming a dog scatters its hair and is not a clean job. They don't sit still like people do. Taking your pet to a groomer can also help with skin, ear, and other problems," she added.

Asked what's the most challenging grooming she ever did, Brudidge said easily it was a dog with a bad case of matting and a multitude of ticks.

"Worst grooming was a dog with chunky matted hair and hundreds of ticks. The dog came to groom for the first time in a year a few days ago, so I remembered. I do not accept grooming of dogs with ticks. Because fallen ticks may land on the next grooming dog."

She also admitted that dog groomers need to be sort of a dog whisperer.

"Some owners said that their dog is aggressive but mostly they are scared and they only can use their mouth. Some dogs hate nail trimming and I can't use a nail cutter but I can use a grinder. Some dogs hate face trim by scissors but okay for trimmers. It can also be the opposite. I'm always looking for ways to get them to love grooming a little bit without being scared."

That doesn't mean she hasn't had her share of mishaps in all these years of grooming pets.

"Sometimes I used heavy duty gloves to protect myself. Before one maltese bit my glove more than 50 times until I finished his hair cut," she said.

Aside from dropoff pet grooming, Happy Tail Saipan can also pick up your pet as long as they're regular-size ones.

For more information on Happy Tail Saipan or to schedule a grooming appointment, call or WhatsApp Brudidge at (670) 989-3945. Happy Tail Saipan is also on Facebook and you can message Brudidge there.

China trade shrinks amid virus pressure, interest rate hikes

BEIJING (AP)—China's imports and exports shrank in November under pressure from weakening global demand and anti-virus controls at home.

Exports sank 9% from a year ago to $296.1 billion, worsening from October's 0.9% decline, customs data showed Wednesday. Imports fell 10.9% to $226.2 billion, down from the previous month's 0.7% retreat in a sign of a deepening Chinese economic slowdown.

The country's global trade surplus narrowed by 2.5% from a year earlier to $69.9 billion.

Trade had been forecast to weaken as global demand cooled following interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve and central banks in Europe and Asia to rein in surging inflation.

Chinese consumer demand has been hurt by a "zero-COVID" strategy that shuts down large sections of cities to contain virus outbreaks. That has disrupted business and confined millions of people to their homes for weeks at a time.

Consumer spending contracted in October and factory activity weakened as anti-virus controls following a rise in infections weighed on the economy.

Retail sales sank 0.5% compared with a year earlier, down from September's 2.5% expansion, as millions of people were confined to their homes, government data showed Tuesday. Growth in factory output decelerated to 5% from the previous month's 6.3%.

The performance was even weaker than expected by forecasters who said activity would cool as Chinese anti-virus controls and interest rate hikes by the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks weighed on global activity.

Nation

Warnock wins Georgia runoff against Walker

ATLANTA (AP)—Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock defeated Republican challenger Herschel Walker in a Georgia runoff election Tuesday, ensuring Democrats an outright majority in the Senate for the rest of President Joe Biden's current term and capping an underwhelming midterm cycle for the GOP in the last major vote of the year.

With Warnock's second runoff victory in as many years, Democrats will have a 51-49 Senate majority, gaining a seat from the current 50-50 split with John Fetterman's victory in Pennsylvania. There will be divided government, however, with Republicans having narrowly flipped House control.

"After a hard-fought campaign — or, should I say, campaigns — it is my honor to utter the four most powerful words ever spoken in a democracy: The people have spoken," Warnock, 53, told jubilant supporters who packed a downtown Atlanta hotel ballroom.

"I often say that a vote is a kind of prayer for the world we desire for ourselves and for our children," declared Warnock, a Baptist pastor and his state's first Black senator. "Georgia, you have been praying with your lips and your legs, your hands and your feet, your heads and your hearts. You have put in the hard work, and here we are standing together."

Warnock

In last month's election, Warnock led Walker by 37,000 votes out of almost 4 million cast, but fell short of the 50% threshold needed to avoid a runoff. The senator appeared to be headed for a wider final margin in Tuesday's runoff, with Walker, a football legend at the University of Georgia and in the NFL, unable to overcome a bevy of damaging allegations, including claims that he paid for two former girlfriends' abortions despite supporting a national ban on the procedure.

"The numbers look like they're not going to add up," Walker, an ally and friend of former President Donald Trump, told supporters late Tuesday at the College Football Hall of Fame in downtown Atlanta. "There's no excuses in life, and I'm not going to make any excuses now because we put up one heck of a fight."

Democrats' Georgia victory solidifies the state's place as a Deep South battleground two years after Warnock and fellow Georgia Democrat Jon Ossoff won 2021 runoffs that gave the party Senate control just months after Biden became the first Democratic presidential candidate in 30 years to win Georgia. Voters returned Warnock to the Senate in the same cycle they reelected Republican Gov. Brian Kemp by a comfortable margin and chose an all-GOP slate of statewide constitutional officers.

Walker's defeat bookends the GOP's struggles this year to win with flawed candidates cast from Trump's mold, a blow to the former president as he builds his third White House bid ahead of 2024.

Justices take up elections case that could reshape voting

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court is taking up a case with the potential to fundamentally reshape elections for Congress and the presidency.

The justices are hearing arguments Wednesday over the power of state courts to strike down congressional districts drawn by the legislature because they violate state constitutions.

Republicans from North Carolina who are bringing the case to the high court argue that a provision of the U.S. Constitution known as the elections clause gives state lawmakers virtually total control over the "times, places and manner" of congressional elections, including redistricting, and cuts state courts out of the process.

The Republicans are advancing a concept called the independent legislature theory, never before adopted by the Supreme Court but cited approvingly by four conservative justices.

A broad ruling could threaten hundreds of election laws, require separate rules for federal and state elections on the same ballot and lead to new efforts to redraw congressional districts to maximize partisan advantage.

The court's decision in the North Carolina case also might suggest how the justices would deal with another part of the Constitution — not at issue in the current case — that gives legislatures the authority to decide how presidential electors are appointed. That provision, the electors clause, was central to efforts to try to overturn the outcome of the 2020 presidential election in several closely contested states.

The North Carolina state Supreme Court struck down districts drawn by Republicans who control the legislature because they heavily favored Republicans in the highly competitive state. The court-drawn map used in last month's elections for Congress produced a 7-7 split between Democrats and Republicans.

North Carolina is among six states in recent years in which state courts have ruled that overly partisan redistricting for Congress violated their state constitutions. The others are Florida, Maryland, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

State courts have become the only legal forum for challenging partisan congressional maps since the Supreme Court ruled in 2019 that those lawsuits cannot be brought in federal court.

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the court and joined by four other conservative justices, noted that state courts remained open. "Provisions in state statutes and state constitutions can provide standards and guidance for state courts to apply," Roberts wrote, in an opinion joined by Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Clarence Thomas.

But Alito, Gorsuch and Thomas wrote in March that they would have allowed the Republican-drawn map to be used this year. Alito wrote for the three justices that "there must be some limit on the authority of state courts to countermand actions taken by state legislatures when they are prescribing rules for the conduct of federal elections. I think it is likely that the applicants would succeed in showing that the North Carolina Supreme Court exceeded those limits."

Asia

N. Korea fires artillery again over South's drills

AP

A TV screen shows a file image of North Korea's military exercise during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Oct. 14, 2022.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Tuesday fired a barrage of artillery rounds into waters near rival South Korea for the second consecutive day in a tit-for-tat for ongoing U.S.-South Korea live-fire drills in an inland border region.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected North Korea firing around 90 artillery rounds from the eastern coastal town of Kosong around 10 a.m. and another 10 rounds from the nearby town of Kumkang around 6 p.m.

It said the shells landed in the northern side of a maritime buffer zone the Koreas established in 2018 to reduce border tensions. The South said it communicated verbal warnings to North Korea and urged it to abide by the military agreement.

The South Korean assessments were slightly different from details announced by North Korea's military, which said it fired 82 shells from multiple rocket launchers.

An unidentified spokesperson of the North Korean People's Army's General Staff said the firings were meant as a warning against "enemy side" artillery exercises in a region near the inter-Korean land border. The spokesperson said South Korea was being hypocritical in criticizing North Korea for breaching the 2018 agreement, saying the South's unspecified past actions in violation of the agreement must be "calculated first."

"The (Korean People's Army) seriously warns the enemy side once again to stop at once the irritating military actions in the area close to the front," the spokesperson said. "Our military counteraction against the continued provocative actions of the enemies will be more offensive as the days go by."

North Korea also on Monday fired around 130 artillery rounds into waters inside the maritime buffer zones with South Korea, while accusing the South of raising unnecessary tension in front-line areas.

The latest North Korean military action has worsened animosity between the rivals, whose relations have sharply declined amid a prolonged pause in nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang.

Bombing at Indonesian police station kills officer, hurts 7

BANDUNG, Indonesia (AP)—A man blew himself up Wednesday at a police station on Indonesia's main island of Java, killing an officer and wounding seven people, officials said, in what appeared to be the latest in a string of suicide attacks blamed on Muslim militants.

The attacker entered the Astana Anyar police station with a motorcycle and detonated explosives as police were lining up for a morning assembly, said Bandung city Police Chief Aswin Sipayung.

An officer died, six were wounded and were rushed to a hospital together with a civilian who was also hurt in the attack, said West Java Police spokesperson Ibrahim Tompo.

A video that circulated on social media showed body parts near the damaged lobby of the police station. Television reports showed white smoke billowing from the building and people running in panic following a loud bang.

Police were investigating if the attacker, who was not identified, had links to radical groups.

West Java Police Chief Suntana said the man brought two bombs but one apparently failed to explode and was defused.

Suntana, who goes by a single name, said that police found a paper taped to the perpetrator's motorbike with the words, "Criminal code is the law of infidels, let's fight the satanic law enforcers."

Indonesia's Parliament on Tuesday passed a new criminal code that bans sex outside of marriage and insulting the president and state institutions.

The current penal code is a Dutch colonial legacy. A revised code was poised for passage in 2019, but President Widodo urged lawmakers to delay a vote amid mounting public criticism that led to nationwide protests as opponents said it contained articles that discriminated against minorities and that the legislative process lacked transparency.

Indonesia has battled militants since bombings on the resort island of Bali in 2002 killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists. Attacks aimed at foreigners have largely been replaced in recent years with smaller, less deadly strikes targeting the government, police and anti-terrorism forces and people who militants consider infidels.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Ukraine leader defiant as drone strikes hit Russia again

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Drones struck inside Russia's border with Ukraine on Tuesday in the second day of attacks exposing the vulnerability of some of Moscow's most important military sites, experts said.

Ukrainian officials did not formally confirm carrying out drone strikes inside Russia, and they have maintained ambiguity over previous high-profile attacks.

But Britain's Defense Ministry said Russia was likely to consider the attacks on Russian bases more than 500 kilometers (300 miles) from the border with Ukraine as "some of the most strategically significant failures of force protection since its invasion of Ukraine."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russian authorities will "take the necessary measures" to enhance protection of key facilities. Russian bloggers who generally maintain contacts with officials in their country's military criticized the lack of defensive measures.

A fire broke out at an airport in Russia's southern Kursk region that borders Ukraine after a drone hit the facility, the region's governor said Tuesday. In a second incident, an industrial plant 80 kilometers (50 miles) from the Ukrainian border was also targeted by drones, which missed a fuel depot at the site, Russian independent media reported.

"They will have less aviation equipment after being damaged due to these mysterious explosions," said Yurii Ihnat, spokesman for the Air Force Command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. "This is undoubtedly excellent news because if one or two aircraft fail, then in the future, some more aircraft may fail in some way. This reduces their capabilities."

US Jews fear collision with expected Israeli government

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's ties to the Jewish American community, one of its closest and most important allies, are about to be put to the test, with Israel's emerging far-right government on a collision course with Jews in the United States.

Major Jewish American organizations, traditionally a bedrock of support for Israel, have expressed alarm over the far-right character of the presumptive government led by conservative Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu. Given American Jews' predominantly liberal political views and affinity for the Democratic Party, these misgivings could have a ripple effect in Washington and further widen what has become a partisan divide over support for Israel.

"This is a very significant crossroads," said Jeremy Ben-Ami, president of J Street, a liberal, pro-Israel group in Washington. "The potential for specific actions that could be taken by this government, these are the moments when the relationship between the bulk of American Jews and the state of Israel begins to really fray. So I'm very afraid."

Jewish-American leaders appear especially worried about the prominent role expected to be played by a trio of hard-line, religious lawmakers. The three have made racist anti-Arab statements, denigrated the LGBTQ community, attacked Israel's legal system and demonized the liberal, non-Orthodox streams of Judaism popular in the U.S. All vehemently oppose Palestinian independence.

"These are among the most extreme voices in Israeli politics," said Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, the largest Jewish movement in the U.S. "What will be the trajectory of a new Israeli government with such voices in such key leadership roles is of deep, deep concern."

More centrist organizations, such as the Anti-Defamation League, which fights antisemitism and other forms of hatred, and the Jewish Federations of North America, an umbrella group that supports hundreds of Jewish communities, have also spoken out.

Argentina's VP Fernández guilty in $1B fraud, gets 6 years

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentine Vice President Cristina Fernández was convicted and sentenced Tuesday to six years in prison and a lifetime ban from holding public office for a fraud scheme that embezzled $1 billion through public works projects during her presidency.

A three-judge panel found the Peronist leader guilty of fraud, but rejected a charge of running a criminal organization, for which the sentence could have been 12 years in prison. It was the first time an Argentine vice president has been convicted of a crime while in office.

Fernández lashed out at the verdict, describing herself as the victim of a "judicial mafia." But she also later announced that she would not run next year for the presidency, a post she previously held in 2007-2015.

The sentence isn't firm until appeals are decided, a process that could take years. She will remains immune from arrest meanwhile.

Fernández's supporters vowed to paralyze the country with a nationwide strike. They clogged downtown Buenos Aires and marched on the federal court building, beating drums and shouting as they pressed against police barriers.

Fernández roundly denied all the accusations. Argentina's dominant leader this century, she was accused of improperly granting public works contracts to a construction magnate closely tied to her family.

The verdict is certain to deepen fissures in the South American nation, where politics can be a blood sport and the 69-year-old populist leader is either loved or hated.

South Africa's lawmakers delay debate on president's future

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—South Africa's lawmakers have postponed until next week a debate on the damning report that has resulted in calls for President Cyril Ramaphosa to step down.

The session was scheduled to take place in Cape Town on Tuesday to discuss a parliamentary panel's report that found Ramaphosa may have broken anti-corruption laws in relation to the theft of a large sum of dollars from his Phala Phala farm in 2020.

The much-awaited sitting has been moved to Dec. 13 to allow time for all lawmakers to attend the sitting in person instead of joining it virtually, according to a decision by parliament's programming committee.

Since the Parliament building was gutted by a fire in January this year lawmakers have had hybrid sessions, with some attending sessions in person at Cape Town City Hall while others joined online via the internet.

The debate is expected to be followed by a motion by opposition parties to impeach Ramaphosa. The ANC commands a majority in parliament and opposition parties would need a two-thirds majority vote to impeach Ramaphosa.

Lawmakers agreed that voting would have to take place by roll-call, which requires all members of Parliament to be present.

Parliament earlier rejected an application by the African Transformation Movement party for the vote to be held through a secret ballot.

Environment

EU agrees deal to ban products which fuel deforestation

BRUSSELS (AP)—European Union lawmakers and governments reached a deal Tuesday that would ban the import of products which contribute to deforestation around the world.

The preliminary agreement, which still needs to be formally adopted by the EU parliament, requires companies to verify that the goods they sell in the EU have not led to deforestation and forest degradation anywhere in the world as of 2021.

Companies need to show that goods they import comply with rules in the country of origin, including on human rights and the protection of indigenous people.

Forests around the world are increasingly under threat from clearance for timber and agriculture, including soybean and palm oil. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 420 million hectares (1.6 million square miles) of forest - an area larger than the EU - were destroyed between 1990 and 2020.

Pascal Canfin, who chairs the European Parliament's environment committee, said the agreement by the 27-nation bloc marks a "world first."

"Europe will close its doors to the everyday products that have the highest impact on deforestation in the world if their importers are not able to demonstrate, with supporting documents, that they do not come from deforested areas," he said. "It's the coffee we drink in the morning, the chocolate we eat, the charcoal we use in our barbecues, the paper in our books. It's radical, and that's what we're going to do."

More than 100 countries pledged last year to halt and reverse global deforestation by 2030, as part of efforts to combat climate change. Forests are an important natural means of removing greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere, since plants absorb carbon dioxide when they grow.

IEA: Renewables could top coal as electricity source by 2025

BERLIN (AP)—The expansion of renewable power generation picked up sharply in 2022 and within three years it could pass coal as the top source of electricity, The International Energy Agency said in a new report published Tuesday.

The Paris-based agency said the global energy crisis stoked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine has triggered an unprecedented surge in renewables as countries look to wind and solar power to bolster their energy security.

More than 90% of global electricity expansion will be from renewable sources in the coming five years, the IEA said, revising its forecast for 2027 upward by 30%.

"Renewables were already expanding quickly, but the global energy crisis has kicked them into an extraordinary new phase of even faster growth as countries seek to capitalize on their energy security benefits," IEA's executive director, Fatih Birol, said. "The world is set to add as much renewable power in the next five years as it did in the previous 20 years."

"This is a clear example of how the current energy crisis can be a historic turning point toward a cleaner and more secure energy system," Birol added.

Replacing fossil fuels with renewables will help keep alive the possibility of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), according to the agency's report. That is the more ambitious limit countries agreed to in the 2015 Paris climate accord.

Florida beach erosion uncovers wooden ship from 1800s

Members of a team of archaeologists study a wooden structure in the sand, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, in Daytona Beach, Fla. AP

DAYTONA BEACH SHORES, Fla. (AP)—Severe beach erosion from two late-season hurricanes has helped uncover what appears to be a wooden ship dating from the 1800s which had been buried under the sand on Florida's East Coast for up to two centuries, impervious to cars that drove daily on the beach or sand castles built by generations of tourists.

Beachgoers and lifeguards discovered the wooden structure, between 80 feet to 100 feet (24 meters to 30.5 meters), poking out of the sand over Thanksgiving weekend in front of homes which collapsed into rubble on Daytona Beach Shores last month from Hurricane Nicole,

"Whenever you find a shipwreck on the beach it's really an amazing occurrence. There's this mystery, you know. It's not there one day, and it's there the next day, so it really captivates the imagination," said maritime archaeologist Chuck Meide, who on Tuesday led an archeological team from St. Augustine, Florida to examine the beach find.

Hurricane Ian made landfall in late September on Florida's southwest coast and exited into the Atlantic Ocean over central Florida. Nicole devastated much of Volusia County's coastline in early November, leaving behind homes collapsed into the ocean after they had been made vulnerable to erosion from Ian.

"It's a rare experience, but it's not unique, and it seems with climate change and more intense hurricane seasons, it's happening more frequently," Meide said of the discovery.

The archeological team on Monday and Tuesday removed sand and made a shallow trench around the structure's wooden timbers, took measurements and made sketches in an effort to solve the 200-year mystery. The digging team members went from using shovels to trowels and then their hands as more of the frame was exposed, so as not to damage any of the wood.

"It's going a lot quicker today but it does take a lot of time," said Arielle Cathers, one of the members of the team, as she kneeled in the sand around the trench unearthing parts of the timber frame with a trowel. "You want to go really carefully."

Russia: Mass seal death likely due to oxygen deprivation

MOSCOW (AP)—A top Russian environmental official said Monday that the thousands of dead seals that washed up on Russia's Caspian Sea coast likely died from oxygen deprivation.

Officials in the republic of Dagestan, which has a long coastline on the world's largest inland body of water, said this week that 2,500 or more seal corpses have been found recently.

Svetlana Radionova of the natural resources watchdog agency Rosprirodnadzor said on Russian state television that hypoxia is being seen as the most likely cause and she said that scientists are investigation whether natural gas emissions in the Caspian could account for low oxygen.

The Caspian Sea has extensive natural gas reserves that are being tapped increasingly.

Radionova said a similar mass death of seals—about 2,000—was recorded in Dagestan and neighboring Azerbaijan in 2000.

December serving up baked Alaska and warming most of Arctic region

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

Much of the Arctic is in a burst of freak December warming.

In Utqiagvik, Alaska's northernmost community formerly known as Barrow, it hit 40 degrees (4.4 degrees Celsius) Monday morning. That's not only a record by six degrees (3.3 degrees Celsius) but it's the warmest that region has seen on record from late October to late April, according to Rick Thoman, a climate specialist at the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

It rained over the weekend in Nome, Alaska, which is unusual but not unheard of for December and the town also had record-breaking warmth Sunday. Savoonga Creek was flooding and didn't have snow cover, nor did the town of Teller northwest of Nome, where snow this time of year is used for drinking water, Thoman said.

On Sunday, the Arctic as a whole averaged 11.5 degrees (6.4 degrees Celsius) warmer than the 1979-2000 average temperature and on Monday, computer models showed that average to likely be 10.5 degrees (5.9 degrees Celsius) warmer than normal, according to the University of Maine's Climate Reanalyzer.

In Nuuk, Greenland, on Friday it was shirt-sleeve weather in December, when the temperature peaked at 54 degrees (12.2 degrees Celsius), 26 degrees (14.4 degrees Celsius) above the normal high mark. In Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, on Friday it hit 48 degrees (8.9 degrees Celsius), which was 34 degrees (18.9 degrees Celsius) warmer than normal.

"The entire Arctic is hot except for small portions of the central and eastern Canadian Arctic and a very small portion of Siberia," Thoman said from a warmer than normal Fairbanks.

Part of it is because of a system of storms, which is likely just random weather, but part is it from lower than normal sea ice, which is human-caused climate change, Thoman said.

Sea ice in the Arctic is about sixth lowest on record, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center. It's far below normal "but we've seen worse," Thoman said.

Sea ice matters because in areas of the Arctic there's no sun in the winter and the atmosphere is cold. But if there's open water, that's usually warmer than the atmosphere.

"Think of that as a heating pad and it's just emitting heat into the atmosphere," Thoman said.

Because of that reduced sea ice, much of the Arctic is now warming four times faster than the rest of the globe, which leads to an increase in "winter warm events," said Danish Meteorological Service ice scientist Jason Box, who studies Greenland.

"Some people cry 'come off it, it's just weather'," Box said. "However, record-setting weather like we're seeing plenty of examples of in recent years does tell a real story of climate heating."

Life & Style

Brendan Fraser is back. But to him, 'I was never far away'

NEW YORK (AP)—In a darkened hotel room in New York's Soho neighborhood, Brendan Fraser kindly greets a reporter with an open plastic bag in his hand. "Would you like a gummy bear?"

Fraser, the 54-year-old actor, is in many ways an extremely familiar face to encounter. Here is the once ubiquitous '90s presence and action star of "The Mummy" and "George of the Jungle," whose warm, earnest disposition has made him beloved, still, many years later.

But Fraser, little seen on the big screen for much of the last decade, is also not quite as you might remember him. His voice is softer. He's more sensitive, almost intensely so. He seems to bear some bruises from an up-and-down life. If Fraser seems both as he was once was but also someone markedly different, that's appropriate. In Darren Aronofsky's "The Whale," he gives a performance unlike any he's given before. And it may well win him an Academy Award.

Fraser's performance been hailed as his comeback—a word, he says, that "doesn't hurt my feelings." But it's not the one he'd choose.

"If anything, this is a reintroduction more than a comeback," Fraser says. "It's an opportunity to reintroduce myself to an industry, who I do not believe forgot me as is being perpetrated. I've just never been that far away."

Fraser is very close at hand, indeed, in "The Whale." In the adaptation of Samuel D. Hunter's play, which A24 releases in theaters Friday, Fraser is in virtually every scene. He plays a reclusive, obese English teacher named Charlie whose overeating stems from past trauma. As health woes shrink the time he has left, the 600-pound Charlie struggles to reacquaint himself to his estranged daughter (Sadie Sink).

Fraser's performance, widely celebrated since the film's Venice Film Festival premiere, has two Oscar-friendly traits going it for: A comeback narrative and a physical metamorphosis. For the role, Fraser wore a massive body suit and prosthetics crafted by makeup artist Adrian Morot that required hours in makeup each morning.

But regardless of all the role's transformation trappings, Fraser's performance resides in his sad, soulful eyes and compassionate interactions with the characters that come in and out of his home. (Hong Chau plays a friend and nurse.) It adds up to Fraser's most empathetic performance, one that has returned him to the spotlight after years making quickly forgotten films like "Hair Brained" (2013) and the straight-to-DVD "Breakout" (2013). On stages now from London to Toronto, standing ovations have trailed Fraser—a leading man reborn—wherever he goes.

For Fraser, who spent much of his previous heyday in Hollywood swinging on vines and racing through pyramids, playing Charlie in "The Whale" has a cosmic symmetry. He could

AP

Brendan Fraser poses for a portrait in Los Angeles on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022, to promote his film "The Whale."

identify with him, Fraser says, "in ways that might surprise you." When he was in his late 20s trying to be as fit as he could be for "George of the Jungle," Fraser encountered his own body-image issues.

"All I knew is that I never felt like it was enough. I questioned myself. I felt scrutinized, judged, objectified, often humiliated," Fraser says. "It did play with my head. It did play with my confidence."

Some have questioned whether Fraser's role in "The Whale" ought to have gone to someone who was authentically heavy. But Fraser, who collaborated with the Obesity Action Coalition in building the performance, says he intimately understands a different kind of appearance-based judgment.

"The term was 'himbo,'" he says. "I wasn't sure if I appreciated it or not. I know that's bimbo, which is a derogatory term, except it's a dude. It just left me with a feeling of profound insecurity. What do I have to do to please you?"

"It didn't matter, really, because life took over. I did other things. I now arrive at a place where I see the flip side of the coin."

After seeing the play 10 years ago at Playwrights Horizon, Aronofsky, the director of "Pi," "Requiem for a Dream" and "Black Swan," spent years contemplating different actors who could play the protagonist of "The Whale" without any success. Then he had Fraser come in and read for the part.

"It wasn't like I went into this with a calculation: Oh, a forgotten American-Canadian treasure," says Aronofsky. "He was the right guy for the right role at the right time. If anything, I was wondering would people think it was a silly choice or something. There wasn't any cool factor that I could see."

Aronofsky instead depended on his gut and an old axiom: "Once a movie star, always a movie star." Plus, Fraser was hungry. He wanted the part desperately and was ready to put in all the work, all the time in the make-up chair. Still, Aronofsky would later marvel, watching a clip reel of Fraser at an awards ceremony, at the juxtaposition of "The Whale" with movies like "Encino Man," "Bedazzled" and "Airheads."

"He plays this kind of very present, truthful, innocent goofus kind of guy," says Aronofsky. "Then you intercut it with 'The Whale.' It was kind of jaw-dropping to me that this was one human being. There's a gap in between of a lot of years."

Fraser never stopped working, but his movie star days mostly dried up in the years after his 2008 films "The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor" and the 3D "Journey to the Center of the Earth." Around that time, he and his wife, Afton Smith, with whom he has three sons, divorced.

"I took some personal time. It was important," says Fraser. "Mostly connecting with my life as a father. It gave me an appreciation for my capacity to love. What I learned informs the latter half of my professional life now."

"Now I know my purpose. Take everything I've learned. Own it. And, if possible, let if fuel the work that comes before me," adds Fraser. "It's a nice idea, but what work will come before me?"

At a Beverly Hills, California, luncheon in 2003, Fraser was groped by Hollywood Foreign Press Association member Philip Berk, Fraser said in 2018. (Berk disputed Fraser's account.) The experience, Fraser told GQ, made him feel like "something had been taken away from me" and "made me retreat."

Last month, Fraser announced he won't attend the Golden Globes in January, whether he's nominated or not. "My mother didn't raise a hypocrite," Fraser said. Still, the nature of awards campaigns will likely keep Fraser in the public eye through the Oscars in March. Is he at all trepidatious about being back in the spotlight?

"I think it's going to be for the rest of my career," Fraser replies. "No. I have an obligation to do this. I feel duty bound to, as politely as a I can, to use that casual prejudice to describe this character, to remind them that there's a better way of doing that. Obesity is the last domain of accepted, casual bigotry that we still abide."

Boyfriend's anger simmers before often boiling over

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend for three years, and it has been great. However, he has serious anger issues that affect our relationship sometimes. It started with small arguments here and there. But as our relationship progressed, so did his mood swings and anger.

He has never hit me. Lately, though, his anger has gotten worse, and he says cruel things to me that he later apologizes for. During our arguments, he never listens to what I have to say. When the argument is over and I wait a couple days to explain how he hurt my feelings, he tells me I'm overly sensitive and to leave the past in the past.

During our last argument, he asked me how to seek professional help. How can I help him? Am I dumb staying with someone like this? Although I love him, I don't know how long I can last with someone who is so angry all the time.

BROKEN IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BROKEN: Ask your doctor or your insurance provider for a referral to a psychologist who can either help your boyfriend or get him into an anger-management class. He definitely needs professional help, and it's good that he knows it.

Although my knee-jerk impulse would be to tell you to end the relationship, that he is self-aware enough to know he needs help makes me inclined to suggest you stick with him a little longer and see how effective the therapy is. But please know that verbal abusers often become physical abusers if they don't receive help, and the verbal bashing is terrible for your self-esteem.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I recently served on a committee to hire a professional-level staff member for my organization. Eligible candidates are required to possess a bachelor's degree or higher. We received more than 30 applications and decided to bring in three candidates for interviews who looked great on paper.

One of them had his phone on and it repeatedly buzzed with incoming messages during the interview. Another, when asked if she had any questions for us, pulled her phone out of her jacket pocket and started swiping the screen saying that she had some questions on her phone. Abby, she had a notepad open in front of her, so why didn't she have her questions written on that?

I found it unsettling that these two candidates couldn't disengage from their phones long enough to participate in a job interview! It made me wonder if they could disconnect from their cellphones long enough to do the job, if hired. Am I showing my age -- and value system -- in thinking that a job interview should be a phone-free zone? What's the etiquette in such a situation?

UNIMPRESSED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR UNIMPRESSED: The "etiquette" is that a job candidate should be prepared before a job interview. Cellphones should be turned off or put on silent mode during the interview so they won't cause a distraction. Make sure the applicant understands this BEFORE the interview begins. As for Candidate Two, ideally she should have written her questions on the notepad she brought with her, although members of her generation often put things like that on their cellphones. A younger interviewer may have let this slide. You didn't. Next candidate!

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

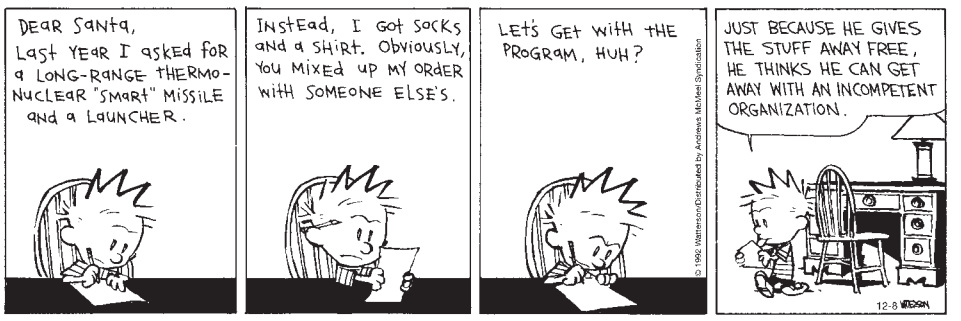
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DEAR SANTA, LAST YEAR I ASKED FOR A LONG-RANGE THERMO-NUCLEAR "SMART" MISSILE AND A LAUNCHER.
INSTEAD, I GOT SOCKS AND A SHIRT. OBVIOUSLY, YOU MIXED UP MY ORDER WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S.
LET'S GET WITH THE PROGRAM, HUH?
JUST BECAUSE HE GIVES THE STUFF AWAY FREE, HE THINKS HE CAN GET AWAY WITH AN INCOMPETENT ORGANIZATION.
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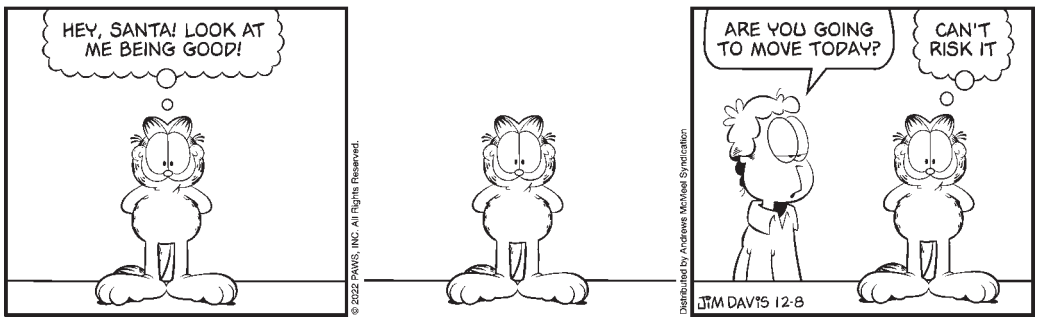
12-8

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


HEY, SANTA! LOOK AT ME BEING GOOD!
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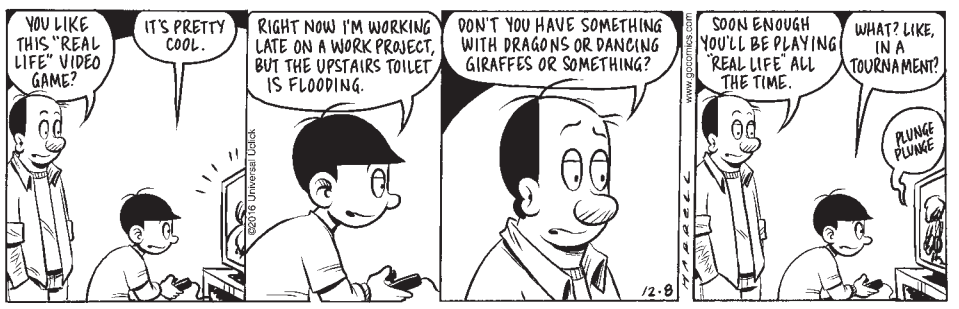
ARE YOU GOING TO MOVE TODAY?
CAN'T RISK IT
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
JIM DAVIS 12-8

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU LIKE THIS "REAL LIFE" VIDEO GAME?
IT'S PRETTY COOL.
RIGHT NOW I'M WORKING LATE ON A WORK PROJECT, BUT THE UPSTAIRS TOILET IS FLOODING.
DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING WITH DRAGONS OR DANCING GIRAFFES OR SOMETHING?
SOON ENOUGH YOU'LL BE PLAYING "REAL LIFE" ALL THE TIME.
WHAT? LIKE, IN A TOURNAMENT?
PLUNGE PLUNGE
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12-8

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

RING
12/8
YOU HARDLY EVER COME OVER TO VISIT. I'M NOT GOING TO LIVE FOREVER, YOU KNOW. AND WHEN I'M GONE...
MOM, JUST ONCE I'D LIKE TO HAVE A GUILT-FREE DESSERT!
© 2016 Glenn and Gary McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sort
4 "I cannot tell —"
8 Roman 206
12 Reuben bread
13 Chinese dynasty
14 Barber's concern
15 Blue-grass State
17 Old U.S. gas brand
18 Insult, slangily
19 Hardly luxurious
21 Threw
24 Fri. preceder
25 Foreman foe
26 Doo-wop syllable
28 Borders on
32 Foot fraction
34 Feedbag morsel
36 Break suddenly
37 Minne-sota's 10,000+
39 Inmate
41 Biol. or chem.
42 Fan's shout
44 Chai brewer
46 Urban play area
50 "No seats"
51 Jai —
52 In error
56 "Death in Venice" author
57 Daring Knievel
58 JFK info
59 Hose woe
60 "Dirty Jobs" host Mike
61 Bottom line

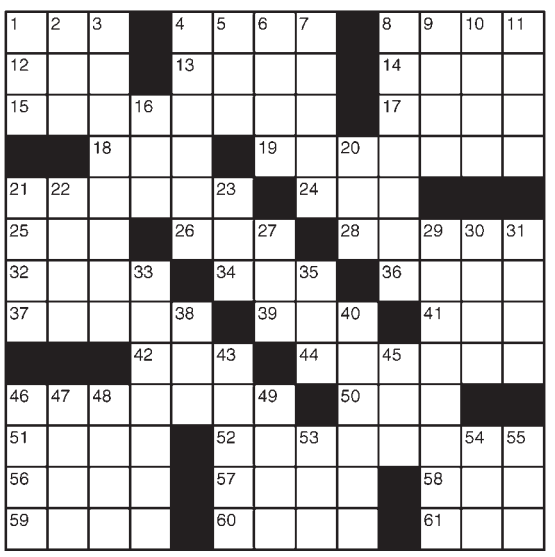
DOWN

1 Annoy
2 Caustic solution
3 "Up in the Air" actress Anna
4 Tickled
5 DMV doc
6 Pen fluids
7 Cairo's nation
8 Little angels
9 Group of actors
10 Travel permit
11 Laundry appliance
16 Up to
20 "Eureka!"
21 Greet
22 Radius neighbor
23 Pair
27 Buddy
29 Tacit
30 Mexican entree
31 Skewer
33 Sheep-dog's job
35 Pre-schooler
38 Bando of baseball
40 Get snug
43 Bart's dad
45 Altar constellation
46 — Club
47 Arkin of "Argo"
48 "Peter Pan" dog
49 DVR brand
53 Stitch
54 Montreal summer
55 — King Cole

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	I	D		F	O	G	S		M	A	T	S	
P	S	I		E	D	I	T		U	K	E	S	
E	L	S		D	E	F	E	N	D	A	N	T	
C	A	C	A	O			S	I	P				
			B	R	A	S		T	I	B	E	R	
D	E	F	E	A	T	E	D		E	L	S	E	
I	R	E		S	A	V	E	D		U	T	E	
E	L	L	S		D	E	F	E	R	R	A	L	
T	E	L	L	A		R	Y	A	N				
			E	R	A			D	A	R	C	Y	
D	E	F	E	C	T	O	R	S		O	H	O	
O	L	A	V		M	U	S	E		B	O	W	
G	I	B	E		S	R	T	A		S	O	L	

Yesterday's answer 12-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ian Somerhalder, 44; Dominic Monaghan, 46; Teri Hatcher, 58; James Galway, 83.

Happy Birthday: Stay on track, no matter what others do or say. Trust your instincts, not what someone tells you. Take refuge in places and with people you trust; it will help you stick to your morals and ethics. Focus on the simple truth, and scorn those who exaggerate or try to take advantage of you. Protect your rights and reputation. Your numbers are 2, 9, 20, 26, 32, 39, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Live and learn. Don't be so hard on yourself. Your experience will help you reach your goals and enrich your life. You have the skills to get things done and overcome obstacles. Travel and romance are favored. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Uncertainty regarding what to do next is prevalent. Consider what you enjoy doing most and find a way to incorporate it into your daily routine. Consider offering a service that helps others and allows you to build assets and lower debt. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* The prime way to look and do your best is through hard work, dedication and realistic expectations. Looking for the good in every situation, person and experience will help you achieve your objective. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Stick to what's real and working for you, and walk away from chaos and discord. Place more trust in yourself and what you can do instead of relying on someone else. Participate in ventures that promise to help those less fortunate. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Listen carefully, ask questions and substantiate the information you gather. There is no room for error, and taking risks will affect your mental and physical well-being. An honest assessment will lead to better choices. Rethink your spending habits. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take one step at a time and handle situations with those you live or work alongside with understanding. Be open to suggestions and changes that will ease tension. Do something you've never done and see what develops. Don't overspend or exaggerate. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Play by the rules, use your skills to get ahead and align yourself with those just as eager as you to make a difference. Changing your surroundings will increase awareness and encourage better decisions regarding where and how you live. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Put your finances in order and ensure everyone you are involved with pays their fair share. Joint ventures and shared expenses are not favored. Simplify your lifestyle and select an investment that grounds you. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be honest with yourself and others. Don't shy away from the truth because you don't relish conflict. It's best to be upfront about how you feel and move forward than to wallow in your misery. Honesty is the best policy. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Refuse to let insecurities stop you from living your dream. Let your originality shine through. A change at home will turn out better than anticipated and encourage you to spend more time enjoying what you've worked so hard to achieve. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll have the stamina to get a home improvement project up and running. Arrange to show off what you are doing to friends and relatives. A suggestion someone makes may tempt you, but don't go over budget to please someone's whims. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Examine all the fine details until you feel confident you are aware of all the ups and downs that can unfold. Preparation will be necessary if you want to avoid falling behind. Don't let anger slip into conversations. Protect your reputation and position. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, friendly and sensitive. You are passionate and innovative.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6			2		
		3	1			7		
1	2			3			8	
							9	5
		6				4		
4	3							
	8			9			4	3
		5			4	1		
		9			7			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/08

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	9	6	5	2	4	7	3	8
4	8	3	7	6	1	2	9	5
5	7	2	8	9	3	6	4	1
6	4	8	2	3	5	1	7	9
9	2	5	6	1	7	3	8	4
3	1	7	4	8	9	5	2	6
7	5	9	1	4	2	8	6	3
2	6	4	3	5	8	9	1	7
8	3	1	9	7	6	4	5	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ANGELA LANSBURY (1925-2022) **Solution: 10 letters**

S	I	C	O	N	E	M	O	W	E	L	T	T	I	L
C	T	D	L	R	O	W	R	A	E	D	A	M	E	L
R	D	A	A	A	D	P	O	S	T	G	A	T	E	E
E	R	N	G	V	C	E	V	L	O	S	O	G	T	W
E	E	Y	N	E	I	E	R	A	O	R	Y	H	T	M
N	D	O	O	C	W	D	W	A	W	P	G	H	R	O
H	N	M	D	U	I	A	N	E	S	I	E	C	A	R
I	A	E	N	E	R	A	H	Y	L	V	D	N	D	C
P	M	M	O	D	S	S	N	S	I	N	G	I	I	D
M	M	A	L	T	R	O	A	S	R	G	A	R	G	R
U	O	M	A	E	H	G	I	R	A	E	R	G	I	A
N	C	S	D	T	T	T	A	R	C	A	T	I	R	H
G	I	R	N	C	R	I	M	E	I	S	T	E	B	C
A	U	A	N	G	I	E	E	H	P	C	M	Y	P	I
M	G	E	R	T	R	U	D	E	I	R	D	R	E	R

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Anastasia, Angie, Anthony, Arcati, Award, Betsie, Brigid, Commander, Crime, Dame, David, Dear World, Deirdre, Deuce, Edgar, Gaslight, Gertrude, Grinch, Gypsy, Hamlet, Icon, Lace, Little Women, London, Magnum P.I., Mame, McPhee, Moyna, Murder She Wrote, Order, Peter Shaw, Postgate, Richard Cromwell, Screen, Solve, Stage, The Visit

Yesterday's Answer: Radiant

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Finney-Smith's late 3 helps Mavs to 116-115 win over Nuggets

DENVER (AP)—Dorian Finney-Smith had someone in his ear after missing a late 3-pointer.

It was Luka Doncic and his message was straightforward: Shoot it again if the opportunity arises.

He followed Doncic's directions. He wouldn't miss.

Finney-Smith hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 17.3 seconds remaining and the Dallas Mavericks rallied after squandering a late lead to beat the Denver Nuggets 116-115 on Tuesday night.

"Him just giving me confidence, that means a lot," Finney-Smith said. "I'm just happy we got the win."

Not that it would be easy.

Nikola Jokic had a chance to tie the game with 12 seconds remaining, but missed the first of two free throws. Spencer Dinwiddie hit both free throws to help seal the win for the Mavericks.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored a season-high 29 points and Doncic recorded his 52nd career triple-double with 22 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds.

The Mavericks hardly looked weary as they played the second game of a back-to-back. They beat the Western Conference-leading Phoenix Suns the night before.

"A lot of great things happened," Mavericks coach Jason Kidd said. "It was a great game."

Aaron Gordon had 27 points, while Jokic added 19 points, eight assists and eight rebounds for the Nuggets, who dropped their third straight game on a night when they committed 17 turnovers.

"There are no moral victories," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "I feel the guys played hard, we competed and gave ourselves a chance."

Dallas appeared to have the game well in hand after taking a 111-101 lead with just over 4 minutes remaining. But the Nuggets went on an 11-0 run and jumped in front on Bruce Brown's 3-pointer.

All it did was set the stage for Finney-Smith, who finished with 19 points.

The Mavericks finished 27 of 31 from the free throw line. Hardaway missed both attempts with 4.2 seconds remaining, setting up a desperation heave from Jamal Murray at the buzzer that missed the mark.

"Would love to have had a timeout at the end of the game so we could, make-or-miss on those Hardaway free throws, could've advanced the ball and get a better, quality shot," Malone said. "That's on me. You can't beat yourself.

"We know that they are an offensive firepower, a team that's loaded. They have shooting everywhere."

Nuggets guard Bones Hyland had a big bounce-back performance with 20 points after being benched last game for the second half. Malone said he chatted with Hyland and emphasized how big of a role he plays on the second unit.

"They call my name and I'm going to go out there and just do what I do," Hyland said. "Try to put the team in the best position."

AP

Dallas Mavericks forward Dorian Finney-Smith reacts after hitting a basket during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, in Denver.

Cavaliers 116, Lakers 102

In Cleveland, as a kid growing up in New York, Donovan Mitchell idolized LeBron James. On Tuesday night, he upstaged him.

Mitchell scored a season-high 43 points and Jarrett Allen returned from injury to add 24, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 116-102 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers in James' only visit home this season.

With Anthony Davis missing the final three quarters because of illness, the Cavs improved to an NBA-leading 11-1 on their floor, their best start at home since 2015-16, when James led them to a championship.

Mitchell, who has Cleveland fans dreaming of another title run, took over in the second half and scored 29 points with the kind of performance James had routinely during his 11 seasons for the Cavs.

"You always want to spoil the homecoming," Mitchell said with a smile.

With Cleveland leading by 12 in the fourth, Mitchell buried a 3-pointer from the left wing to finish the Lakers. After dropping the shot, the All-Star guard strutted around the Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse floor nodding his head as James helplessly watched.

"He's Mitchell," James said. "He's a special kid."

Darius Garland added 21 points and 11 assists for Cleveland.

James finished with 21 points and 17 rebounds, losing for just the third time in 20 games against the Cavs.

Dennis Schroder and Russell Westbrook added 16 points apiece as Los Angeles had its four-game winning streak stopped.

Davis went out after eight minutes with flu-like symptoms. The eight-time All-Star had scored 99 points in his previous two games and had been playing as well as he has in several seasons after being plagued by injuries.

Davis didn't attempt a field goal and scored just one point before leaving.

"It got progressively worse as the day went on," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "His temperature was 101 and some change. A-D wanted to try to play, but he felt too weak. He's drained and dehydrated.

"That's a huge loss, obviously, with the way he's been playing lately."

Pistons 116, Heat 96

In Miami, the Detroit Pistons had a rare easy win.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 28 of his 31 points in the second half, Alec Burks added 18 and the Pistons ran away in the final two quarters to beat the Miami Heat 116-96 on Tuesday night.

"Second half, we wanted to play faster and move the ball a little bit," Bogdanovic said. "I hit a couple 3s and everything opened up."

Saddiq Bey scored 14, Isaiah Stewart had 11 points and 11 rebounds and Cory Joseph also finished with 11 points for the Pistons, who trailed 50-47 at halftime — then outscored Miami 69-46 in the final two quarters.

It was Detroit's biggest margin of victory this season. The Pistons had won only one game by more than seven points, that being a 128-114 triumph over Golden State on Oct. 30.

"It's a huge team win," Bogdanovic said. "We held a great offensive team under 100 points."

Tyler Herro led all scorers with a season high-tying 34 points for Miami, which has dropped three of its last four games. The Heat are off to an 11-14 start for the third time in the last five seasons.

"We simply just didn't play well," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I thought we were pretty stable defensively through three quarters, and then the floodgates just opened."

Miami played without Jimmy Butler (right knee injury management), Dewayne Dedmon (left foot plantar fasciitis) and Gabe Vincent (left knee). But the Heat had Victor Oladipo for the first time all season; Oladipo, who had been sidelined with a knee issue since the preseason, had nine points in 18 minutes.

It was only the 80th appearance for Oladipo out of a possible 317 games since he suffered a severe knee injury while with the Indiana Pacers in 2019.

Giannis' 10-second (and more) FT routine draws more scrutiny

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo is having issues at the foul line again.

Not with his accuracy—but his timing.

For the second time in his team's last three games, the Milwaukee Bucks' star had a free throw taken away because he didn't shoot it within the allotted 10 seconds—a problem that has dogged him at various times throughout his career.

"Sometimes I'm so tired I take a few extra seconds of resting," said Antetokounmpo, who turns 28 on Tuesday. "If there's going to be a 10-second call, I expect it. I'll give them the ball and run the other way."

The latest chapter in this years-long saga came with 1:52 left in the third quarter of Milwaukee's 109-102 win over Orlando on Monday night. Antetokounmpo was fouled by Moritz Wagner and took about 13 seconds before taking and making his first attempt.

On what would have been the second free throw, Antetokounmpo's routine was much like the previous attempt. He caught the pass from official Nate Green, took a deep breath and held the ball on his left hip for about 6 1/2 seconds. He then moved the ball in front of him, holding it with both hands, spun it, dribbled once, gathered it again and took another deep breath.

All that took about 7 more seconds.

"At the end of the day, that's my routine," Antetokounmpo said. "Obviously, I have to respect the rules and shoot it before the 10 seconds. But anytime that it's 10 seconds, I'm OK with it. If they call it, I don't complain."

By then, referee Brian Forte had seen enough and blew his whistle. Antetokounmpo never got the shot away, and it wouldn't have counted at that point if he did.

"He's aware," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said when asked if he talks to Antetokounmpo when the foul line becomes a struggle. "It's a brief conversation. He's got routines and sticks to them. I think he's overall in a good place this year. He's just got to tighten it up a little bit."

A similar scene happened Friday in Milwaukee's loss to the Los Angeles Lakers, when Antetokounmpo was called for a 10-second violation in what became a 133-129 loss. He didn't play in Milwaukee's win over Charlotte on Saturday.

For the season, Antetokounmpo is shooting a career-worst 62% from the foul line. He had a three-game stretch in November where he shot a horrible 13-for-38 (34%) from the line — a 4-for-15 game in Philadelphia was part of that, the night where he returned to the court postgame for some practice and wound up sending a ladder toppling to the ire of arena workers.

Since that three-game stretch, he's shot 49 for 67 (73%). He was 8 for 11 on Monday.

"As I've said, 10 games ago, I wasn't at my best," Antetokounmpo said. "Now I'm making some. I'm shooting it better and hopefully I can keep this up. And I believe I'm going to keep this up."

The wording of the NBA definition for free throws in the rulebook is this: "A free throw is the privilege given a player to score one point by an unhindered attempt for the goal from a position directly behind the free throw line. This attempt must be made within 10 seconds."

That has been an issue for Antetokounmpo throughout his career—most notably in the 2021 playoffs, when he was called for 10-second violations multiple times. That didn't exactly cause lasting damage; Milwaukee won the NBA title and Antetokounmpo was NBA Finals MVP.

There was a game in 2016 against Portland when Meyers Leonard, then of the Trail Blazers, held up his fingers while on the bench to silently count off the 10-plus seconds it took Antetokounmpo to shoot a foul shot. Fans in Toronto have used the tactic during some of Antetokounmpo's past trips there, too.

In the game against the Lakers on Friday, Russell Westbrook counted off 10 seconds as well—not silently, and got the violation called.

"I did feel validated," Westbrook said. "Glad they paid attention."

Antetokounmpo fought through whatever the issue is on subsequent trips to the line Monday.

He went back to the line with 2 minutes left in regulation and Milwaukee clinging to a four-point lead. He moved much more quickly, unofficially taking the full 10 seconds in both cases before releasing the basketball, and made one of the two shots.

With 40.2 seconds left, he went back to the line, again taking roughly 10 seconds before each shot. He made both to give the Bucks a 106-99 lead, unfazed by fans loudly (and a bit briskly) counting off seconds as he prepared to shoot.

"It is what it is," Antetokounmpo said.

Morocco beats Spain on penalties to advance at World Cup

By TALES AZZONI
AP SPORTS WRITER

AL RAYYAN, Qatar (AP)—The first World Cup held in an Arab nation has produced the Arab world's first quarterfinalist.

Morocco became only the fourth African country to reach the quarterfinals at the biggest soccer tournament in the world by beating Spain 3-0 in a penalty shootout after a 0-0 draw through extra time.

The Moroccans were playing in only their second knockout game at a World Cup, an event which is being held in the Middle East for the first time in its nearly 100-year history.

"Right now is a special moment for all Africa, for all the Arab countries, for all the Muslims around this world," Morocco midfielder Azzedine Ounahi said. "You try to make them happy, try to make ourselves happy. And I think it goes quite well."

The World Cup in Qatar is the first to be played in the Arab world and only the second to be held in Asia. The tournament began with one of the biggest upsets in history when Saudi Arabia beat two-time champion Argentina on the third day of action.

The Saudis were eliminated, as were host Qatar and Tunisia, in the group stage. That left Morocco as the Arab world's standard bearer.

"I'm very proud of my fans, of my people and Arabic people," said Morocco coach Walid Regragui, who is the first African to coach an African team to the quarterfinals. "Also because I think you have Qatari people here, maybe Algerian people, Tunisian people, Arabic people and African people."

Achraf Hakimi, who was born in Madrid and previously played for Real Madrid, converted the deciding penalty in the shootout. Abdelhamid Sabiri and Hakim Ziyech, who returned to the national team after a dispute with the previous coach, also scored.

Morocco has been the biggest surprise of the tournament and will next face Portugal in the quarterfinals on Saturday.

Morocco, which has a complex geopolitical relationship with close neighbor Spain, advanced from a difficult group that included Canada, 2018 semifinalist Belgium, and 2018 runner-up Croatia.

The team came to the tournament with more than half of its squad filled with players who were not born in Morocco, the most of any of the 32 participating countries.

"Today I think it showed to the world every Moroccan is Moroccan with his passport," Regragui said. "When he comes to the national team, you want to die, you want to fight. And that is what I want to show. And now, we have one example. The coach is born in France but nobody can have my heart but my country."

The king of Morocco called to congratulate the team after the game.

Morocco, which also reached the round of 16 at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, is also the only team from outside Europe or South America to make it to the last eight in Qatar.

Cameroon, Senegal and Ghana are the only other African nations to reach the World Cup quarterfinals. None of the three advanced to the semifinals.

Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou, who plays for Spanish club Sevilla, saved two of the three penalties he faced in the shootout, from Carlos Soler and Sergio Busquets. Pablo Sarabia hit the post.

"We knew that if we went to the penalty shootout, we had one of the best goalkeepers in the world and we could win it," said Regragui, who took over as coach of Morocco in August and had little time to prepare the team ahead of the World Cup.

KANOA

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sion games, Kanoa slipped past Tan Holdings FC, 6-5, blanked Shirley's 3-0, and beat MPU FC, 3-2 in the championship match. Kanoa topped this division with 100 points.

For the U13 girls 5v5 division games, Kanoa silenced Tan Holdings, 3-0, but lost to Southern United FC, 3-5. In this division, the Kanoa girls placed fourth with 40 points.

In the U13 boys 8v8 division games, Kanoa overpowered Tan Holdings, 2-0, but was defeated by MPU, 1-3 in the championship match. The Kanoa boys placed second with 80 points behind MPU's 100 points.

In other results that day in the U8 co-ed division, Shirley's defeated MPU, 2-1; Tan Holdings routed Southern United, 3-2; and Shirley's beat Tan Holdings, 4-1.

The other results of the U10 co-ed division were MPU defeated Matansa FC, 2-1; Shirley's beat Paire, 2-1; and MPU blanked Southern United, 4-0.

The results of other games in the U13 girls division were Southern United overpowered MPU, 7-0; Shirley's defeated Paire, 2-1; and Shirley's beat Southern United, 3-2.

In the U13 boys division other results, Tan Holdings silenced Shirley's, 1-0; MPU triumphed over Southern United, 3-0; Matansa won against Paire, 4-1; and MPU blanked Matansa, 2-0.

RONALDO

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to a 6-1 win over Switzerland and into the World Cup quarterfinals.

Ramos, a 21-year-old forward who only made his Portugal debut last month, demonstrated the kind of clinical finishing for which Ronaldo was once known in scoring the first goal in the 17th minute and adding others in the 51st and 67th.

No player had scored a hat trick in his first World Cup start since Germany striker Miroslav Klose in 2002.

"Not even in my wildest dreams did I think about being part of the starting team for the knockout stage," said Ramos, an unheralded striker who plays for Benfica and counts Ronaldo as his soccer idol along with Robert Lewandowski and Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

It was around the hour mark that fans throughout the 89,000-seat Lusail Stadium started to implore Santos to bring on the 37-year-old Ronaldo, and they got their wish in the 72nd minute. Portugal had the game wrapped up by then, with defenders Pepe and Raphael Guerreiro also having scored. Rafael Leao added another goal in stoppage time.

Ronaldo didn't score — he still hasn't in the knockout stage in any of his five World Cups—and after briefly celebrating with his teammates following the final whistle, he walked off the field on his own, perhaps wondering where his career goes from here.

He is currently without a club after leaving Manchester United midway through the World Cup, and he might no longer be the starter for his country.

The rest of the Portugal team hung around to applaud its fans at one end of the stadium. A quarterfinal match awaits against Morocco on Saturday and Santos now has to decide whether to stick with Ramos or restore Ronaldo, the top scorer in men's international soccer and one of the game's greatest ever players.

Santos said it was a strategic decision to drop Ronaldo and not a disciplinary one, having expressed unhappiness during his eve-of-match news conference Monday at the striker's attitude after he was substituted against South Korea in the team's final group game.

"What we have to do is think about this team collectively," Santos said, before talking about Ronaldo. "I will always consider he is a very important player to have in the team."

That might now be a substitute and an experienced head in the locker room rather than a starter.

Ramos was a surprise replacement—he had previously only made three substitute appearances for Portugal—and took his chance.

Ramos, who was only 2 years old when Ronaldo made his Portugal debut in 2003, scored the first hat trick at this year's World Cup.

He drove a rising shot with his left foot inside Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer's near post for the first goal, flicked deftly through Sommer's legs from close range for the second, and then ran through to chip the goalkeeper for his third.

Ronaldo was seen smiling while he was warming up on the side of the field after Ramos' second goal.

"Cristiano, as our captain, did what he always does," Ramos said. "He helped us and encouraged us, not only myself but my colleagues."

Ramos even had an assist, playing the ball through for Guerreiro to score the fourth goal.

Ronaldo was lively when he came on and and even thought he had scored when he ran through and drove a low left-footed shot past Sommer. The goal was disallowed for offside, much to the irritation of the fans—Portuguese or from other countries—who had come to see him play.

Switzerland's only goal came in the 57th minute when Manuel Akanji tapped in at the far post after a corner kick.

BLUE

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final crucial sequence of the ballgame.

Despite going to the showers early, Schmidt still led Blue Haus' charge with 18 points, while Fitial added 12 for the only remaining undefeated team in the open division at 4-0.

Changming Store, which fell to 3-1, was led by Ferrer's 18 points, while center Juan Camacho had 14.

In other results in the open division, Marianas Health Services (1-3) finally barged into the win column with a 69-63 win over Padrinos Tuesday Club (2-2); NAPA Auto Parts (3-1) kept Pepoy's Rest Cafe (0-4) winless with a 95-76 drubbing; Vizion Insurance (2-2) leveled its card with an 88-75 victory over Al-Ger Manpower (0-4), and JTM Saipan (3-1) edged Pacific Best Choice (2-2), 78-71.

In the masters, JSN Construction rolled to its fourth straight win against no loss by thumping Legends Elite, 121-71. Blue Haus also improved to 3-1 after escaping Vizion Insurance, 97-93.

Blue Haus 67 – Schmidt 18, Fitial 12, Talania 10, Lauron 7, Esdrelon 5, Devero 6, Barrios 3, Castro 2, D. Mateo 2, Altoge 2.

Changming Store 64 – Ferrer 18, Camacho 14, Almario 7, Quan 6, Rabauliman 4, Palacios 3, Directo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-13, 42-26, 59-49, 67-64.

OVER

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High School with 39.

An additional 142 parents, teachers, and interested runners also enjoyed the early morning walk with a collection of Marianas Health giveaways and light refreshments after the race.

The first runner who came in for Saipan's event was Marianas High School student and president of MHS Run Club, Pony Tang. He said he joined the event to represent MHS and encourage other students to run.

The run/walk on Saipan started at the Garapan Basketball Court with the turnaround point at the Japanese World War II Tank Memorial along Beach Road.

The Rota HAFA Miles 5K Run/Walk had 130 participants starting at the San Isidro Church in Sinapalo and looped into a complete circle at the Tun Joaquin Baseball Field.

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./ Sr. High School had the most participants with 43 total students. Rota parents, teachers, and other participants came out to join the run/walk as well.

"By participating in the 2022 Marianas Health HAFA Miles 5K Run/Walk we honor the millions of nurses, home care aides, therapists, and social workers who make a remarkable difference for the patients and families they serve. With the community's participation together we all raise awareness on the diabetes epidemic, especially here in the CNMI, and continue to fight to find the resources to prevent and manage diabetes. We also honor those who serve as family caregivers, those who educate communities on caregiving issues, and to increase support for caregivers," said Marianas Health.

For more information on upcoming activities or information on services from Marianas Health, contact the Marianas Health office at (670) 233-4646, visit www.marianashealth.com, and follow social media platforms on Facebook or Instagram (@marianashealthpage).

AN

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a lot of experience in fishing and educated me about the waters and the markets. I also just want to say thank you to our advisors and sponsors for making everything happen."

TTT president Gene Weaver said the experiences shared by Otto and Buelong is exactly why TTT exists.

"Tasi to Table is here to serve these kids… what more could you ask for? A lot of these kids have never been on a boat and have never caught fish and their testimonies show we provide that opportunity to these students."

He also gave kudos to the companies and government agencies that donated their resources to make TTT and its programs successful.

"Without your support, contributions, donations, Tasi to Table wouldn't be here today. So again, thank you so much and I want to be the first to wish you happy holidays," he said.

TTT vice president Dan Wallock seconded Weaver when he said "it's the whole village that makes Tasi to Table happen."

For her part, TTT officer manager Marita Iglecias said after a brief pause because of COVID-19 their six-month student program is back and currently has over 120 students, including those from Tinian and Rota.

She said enrolling in the program is invaluable as students who complete the two-year program receive an elective credit if they accomplish 120 hours.

"We also provide career pathways as we partner with Westpac and we showcase scholarships that are being offered by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Western Pacific Maritime Academy, which is Sea Connects."

Tasi to Table is a nonprofit corporation registered in the CNMI. Established in July of 2020, TTT engages the youth with teachings on fishing methodologies, boating safety, environment protection, and safeguarding as well as mental health of its youth.

Marianas Rugby Club, Guam hold friendly matches

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

LEIGH GASES

Marianas Rugby Club's Jason Limes tackles a Guam rugby player during one their friendly matches last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex field.

LEIGH GASES

Marianas Rugby Club's Jason Limes tackles a Guam rugby player during one their friendly matches last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex field.

Tackles were made left and right when a Guam rugby team came out to play a series of friendly matches against the Marianas Rugby Club on a blazing hot but windy Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex field.

The friendly roundup of watches were MRC Team B vs. Guam, MRC Team A vs. MRC Team B, and MRC Team A vs. Guam. For the women's matches, since there were no Guam women's rugby team present, it was the MRC red team vs. MRC blue team. The Guam team pummeled MRC in the first match, 26-7.

With rugby in the CNMI not as big as it is in Guam, according to Neemia Vaiagae from the MRC, these matches exposed the team to competition, with hopes to have more matches like these in the future. Occasionally, said Vaiagae, MRC flies to Guam for rugby matches.

Vaiagae said that about 99% of the rugby players in the team are young and are first-time players but that they are "very interested" in the sport. He said he hopes to expose it to the youth first. "That's what we're trying to do—bring rugby here… there are lots of other sports here but there are some kids that are interested in [rugby]."

The men's MRC team consists of Oscar Setefano, Koji Taisakan, Jason Limes, Dino Taitano, Cain Castro, Jose Itibus, Rj Mendiola, Greg Sablan, Trey Aiken, Matthew Reyes, Frank Baza Jr., Chase Tenorio, Andy Magofna, Javen Montenegro, Jesse Olopai, Daniel Taisakan, Darien Quitugua, Jeffrey Quitugua Jr., Neil Skerei, Alvin Takai, Brandon Benavente, and Semisi Betevua.

The women's MRC red team includes Tahira Setefano, Yuriko Castro, Maria Castro, Richelle Ramon, Jenny Lee, and Jemalei Mori.

The women's MRC blue team includes Vivalyn Yangirelit, Davian Atalig, Marley Castro, Jahsmin Ramon, Kailani Laniyo, Tarshia Olopai, Devine Sablan, with one Guam rugby player, Mariana Piper Crisostomo.

The Guam rugby team that came out were Justin Tanguileg, Afari "AJ" Patterson, Jedi Tuli, Seta Suguturaga, Taylor Taitague, Manny Cruz, Niko Castro, Frank Arceo, Brandon Burgos, Brad Fritz, Troy Fritz, Jayven Mendiola, Richard Smalls, Davy Degracia, Keenan Quinata, and Paul Estaquio. These rugby players were from different rugby teams in Guam including South Side and Lattestoners, but the majority of them are from the Guam Rugby Club.

Justin Tanguileg, a 26-year-old Guam rugby player said after the matches that "it's a lot of competition—the competition is a lot better. I would like to say, hands down, the community's always welcoming. It's always a great experience to always come back out here for any sports—for rugby most especially, and for football too. They come to Guam too and we always welcome them with open arms… which is a really good thing and I love how we keep on pushing us further and further into being more competitive. And that's what we need to do as brother and sister islands– and it feels great to see that COVID is dying down… and we get to see everyone back out again and doing what we love to do. We're doing what we love to do honestly."

"Thanks to Saipan and the whole community for making this happen. If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't be doing what we love," said Tanguileg.

"A huge shout out to those who came out today to show love to both MRC and Guam rugby! Your presence and support is very much appreciated! Thank you to our Guam rugby family for giving us the experience needed to grow as a team and individually. We hope to see you all soon on the field again," said the MRC Facebook page after the event.

Lady of the match, most tries, and most tackles went to Kailani Laniyo, Yuriko Kawakami Castro, Jemalei Mori, and Marley Castro, respectively.

MRC invites those interested in trying a new sport, with MRC practices on Tuesday and Thursday from 5pm to 7pm at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Contact northernmarianasrugbyclub@outlook.com or Oscar Setefano at (670) 287-6752.

'An Evening with TTT' highlights students

MARK RABAGO

Tasi to Table hosted "An Evening with TTT" event last Dec. 1 at Aqua Resort Club. Photo shows a group photo of the non-profit members that attended the occasion led by TTT president Gene Weaver, center.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

For high school students Leilani Otto and Nathan Buelong, joining Tasi to Table's six-month program was a life-changing experience that made them more aware of fisheries and the ocean environment.

Speaking at the "An Evening with TTT" event last Dec. 1 at the Aqua Resort Club, Otto said her biggest thrill being part of TTT's six-month student program was when they were tasked to run one of the non-profit's fishing derbies.

"We learned about different types of fishing, microplastics, our environment, and fish in general. But when we had to set up our own derby, things started to become interesting," said the president of the TTT club at Marianas High School.

Otto said the entire derby experience taught them about getting on time early in the morning to greet students who they've met through the program and learning more about them as they went through the derby together.

"I also didn't just get to meet the students but I also got to meet the fishermen on the boat. It was a fun experience because I got to learn more about fishing and why so many people go out early in the morning because fish doesn't wait on you."

The ultimate prize awaited her when it was time to pack up things after the derby.

"And what I love the most after every fishing trip was that I got to bring my own fish home and go to eat and share it with my family and tell them about the experiences and that's why I joined Tasi to Table to begin with," she said.

For Nathan Buelong, Daok Academy TTT club president and class comedian, joining the six-month program was monumental.

"Joining Tasi to Table was the greatest decision I made this year because it gave me

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Over 300 join HAFA Miles 5K Run/Walk

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Over 300 joined Marianas Health's HAFA Miles 5K Run/Walk in celebration of National Homecare and Hospice Month, National Diabetes Prevention and Awareness Month, and National Caregivers Month last Nov. 26 and Nov. 29.

Marianas Health and its subsidiary agencies held its 2022 HAFA Miles 5K Run/Walk on Saturday morning, Nov. 26 on Saipan and Nov. 29 on Rota as an opportunity to bring awareness to those campaigns, and for schools to show their school spirit, as well as an opportunity to raise funds for each school.

Marianas Health will be giving a cash incentive of $350 to the school with the most participants present and completing the run/walk.

On Saipan, the elementary school with the most participants was Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School with five; the middle school winner was Dandan Middle School with seven; and the high school with the most participants was Saipan Southern

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Health 5K Run/Walk Rota participants pose for a photo last Nov. 29.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Health staff poses for a photo at the Garapan Basketball court after their 5K Run/Walk event held last Nov. 26.

Finney-Smith's late 3 helps Mavs to 116-115 win over Nuggets

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Sports

Marianas Rugby Club, Guam hold friendly matches

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Blue Haus over Changming in battle of unbeatens

MARK RABAGO

Blue Haus center Kelvin Fitial muscles his way to the basket against Changing Market's Pai Villacuris and Alex Standish during their open division game in the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League last Sunday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Blue Haus withstood a furious rally to turn back Changming Store, 67-64, to win the battle of unblemished teams in the open division of the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League last Sunday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

Center Kelvin Fitial was fouled with 6.1 seconds left and made his first free throw to give Blue Haus a 3-point lead.

The 6'3" center then inexplicably rebounded his own miss and Blue Haus held on to the ball as time expired.

Blue Haus led after the opening quarter, 19-13, but literally was a house on fire in the second and led by as much as 20 points before settling for a 42-26 advantage at the break.

Changming Store, however, little by little chipped into Blue Haus' lead at the start of the third and, lo and behold, were just down by 10 points, 59-49, heading into the fourth and final quarter.

Blue Haus still managed to fend off Changming Store's advances in the fourth until national player Douglas Schmidt fouled out with 5:57 left in the contest.

A series of 3-pointers by Mark Ferrer and B.J. Palacios whittled down the lead to just 1 point when the latter's splash down from the land of plenty made it 64-63 with time down to 1:21.

Good thing hulking MMA fighter Fitital came to the rescue and scored on a putback in the next possession for Blue Haus.

After Changming Store's Marvin Rabauliman split his charities to make it 66-64 and a defensive stop by his team gave them back possession, Palacios fumbled the ball with 17 seconds left.

Fitial was then fouled by Alex Standish that set up the

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Ronaldo dropped, Ramos scores 3 for Portugal at World Cup

By STEVE DOUGLAS
AP SPORTS WRITER

LUSAIL, Qatar (AP)— A chant of "RONALDO! RONALDO!" swept around the biggest stadium at the World Cup, followed by loud jeers when the fans realized their idol wasn't coming onto the field.

Cristiano Ronaldo was, in fact, sitting in the Portugal dugout, looking glum and still wearing a substitute's bib. And the guy who started instead of him on Tuesday was about to complete a hat trick.

After Ronaldo was dropped from the starting lineup in a bold call by Portugal coach Fernando Santos, Goncalo Ramos — the superstar striker's unlikely replacement — made himself an instant star by leading the team

AP

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo embraces team mate Goncalo Ramos during his substitution at the World Cup group H soccer match between Portugal and Ghana, at the Stadium 974 in Doha, Qatar, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022.

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Kanoa FC wins soccer tournament

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kanoa Football Club is the overall champion of the NMIFA-EAFF Youth Tournament 2022 held last Saturday afternoon at the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. The players are joined by coaches, officials, and NMIFA president Jerry Tan, right.

Kanoa Football Club collectively won the NMIFA-EAFF Youth Tournament 2022 in a soccer-crazed Saturday afternoon at the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Kanoa won first place with 300 points and bested six other youth soccer clubs.

Shirley's Football Club won second place with 290 points; MP United Football Club won third place with 240 points; Southern United Football Club placed fourth with 180 points; Tan Holdings Football Club placed fifth with 170 points; Paire Football Club placed sixth with 150 points; and Matansa Football Club placed last with 120 points.

There were four divisions in the tournament, with Kanoa FC winning the U8 co-ed 5v5 division games against Paire FC, 5-4, Matansa FC, 5-0, but losing to Shirley's FC, 1-2, in the championship match up. Kanoa collected 80 points and was ranked second to Shirley's 100 points.

In the U10 co-ed 5v5 divi-

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